



Meeting Notes 2025

Governing Board

June 26, 2025

Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Meeting Video](#)

Type of Meeting SLDS Governance Board

Facilitator: Amy Bhikha

Note Taker: AI-assisted Note Taking

Timekeeper: Heather MacGillivray

Attendees: Amy Bhikha, Stephanie Beasley, Susana Córdova, Michael Vente, Lee Wheeler-Berliner, Jess Kostelnik, Sarah Heath (absent), Rebecca Tyus, Brian Eschbacher, Katie Zaback, Whitney LeBoeuf

Agenda Items:

2:00 - 2:05 Welcome & Roll Call

2:05 - 2:15 Updates: Advisory Groups, Program, Communications

2:15 - 3:00 SLDS Legal Framework

- a) Review of SLDS Policies & Procedures - Heather MacGillivray (30 minutes)
- b) Vote on Policy and Procedures - Amy Bhikha (5 minutes)
- c) Introduce the agency specific Data Sharing Agreements & Data Sharing Addenda Template - Katie Nelson (10 minutes)

3:00 - 3:25 Making it Concrete: Use Case Review Process Dry Run

3:25 - 3:30 Closing and Next Steps

Open

Call to Order

- Roll Call was taken, Quorum was reached
- Agenda and Objectives reviewed

Updates:

- Advisory Groups: The advisory groups diligently reviewed governance policies and procedures over the past two months, holding 6 meetings and receiving over 400 comments. 13 of 15 advisory group members reviewed the policy, and 15 of 16 participated in at least one meeting. Two full revisions were made to the documents since May 2nd, with the last revision incorporating

governing board comments. The groups are now moving to program prioritization for Phase 1 inclusion, with feedback on the list to be presented at the July 18th Governing Board meeting

- General Updates:
 - An SLDS data architect for OIT staff was hired and started on May 19th.
 - Contracting with the vendor is on track for July 25th.
 - Governor Polis signed House Bill 25-1308, moving the first annual reporting date to September 2026 (from April), with subsequent reports due in April. This provides more time for vendor contracting.
 - Work on branding is ongoing, with communication people providing ideas. A presentation on branding is hoped for in August.
 - A "walking slide deck" for presentations and an infographic "two-pager" overview are being developed as communication tools.

Review and Vote on Governance Policies and Procedures:

The main accomplishment of the meeting was the review and approval in substantive form of the governance policies and procedures.

- The policies were introduced to the Governing Board at the May 16th meeting.
- National experts from DISC and DQC provided feedback.
- The policies were described as "light to launch," meaning they are sufficient to get data flowing by September 2026, with the understanding that revisions will be made during implementation.
- Since the June 13th version, substantial revisions were made based on feedback from the Governing Board. These include streamlining sections (e.g., removing duplicate content on purpose and principles, legislation, and regulations already covered in the MOU). Roles and responsibilities were moved to terms and definitions. Heavy edits were made to compliance (Section 1.3) and terms/definitions to align with GDAB definitions, MOU, and DSA.
- A new Section 2.1, "Prerequisites for Data Access," was added, including an estimated 4-6 week timeframe for initial approval.
- A significant discussion ensued regarding the process for data access and use cases, balancing trust, legality, and expediency. Key points included:
 - Clarification that the SLDS aims to provide users access to data within the system (research enclave concept) rather than distributing datasets, for security and auditability.
 - Concerns were raised about the 4-6 week turnaround time, especially for new requests and the need to socialize requests with stakeholders (e.g., institutions of higher education, school districts).
 - Discussion about the role of the Governing Board versus the Sustainability Committee in reviewing use cases, with a desire to streamline the initial review for the board.
- The board voted to approve the data governance policies and procedures in substantive form, allowing them to be shared externally while acknowledging that further revisions are possible.
- The three-tiered legal agreement (MOU, DSAs, and data governance/policies) was reviewed, by Katie Nelson. Agency leads should be aware that the Data Addenda can be found at the end of the DSA template.
- Please be ready for signatures in late July.

Use Case Dry Run:

- Overarching use cases were reiterated: participation, completion, multiple program participation, and equity across different demographic groups.
- A dry run of a mock use case application ("Understanding Long-Term Outcomes of CTE in High School") was presented to test the preliminary approval process by the governing board. The board's role is to authorize the Sustainability Committee to review the use case in more depth.
- Discussion points during the dry run included:
 - Clarification of terms within the abstract (e.g., comparing CTE levels of intensity to students who "do not get CTE").
 - The possibility of the requester being present at the Sustainability Committee meeting for deeper discussion, but not necessarily at the initial governing board review.
 - The need to clarify the distinction between "data request" and "use case" within the

document.

- Suggestions to streamline the initial review, potentially treating it more like a consent agenda item, and to have staff conduct initial consultations with requesters to refine applications before they reach the board.
- The question of whether statutorily required reports need to go through the same formal approval process as novel requests.
- The board agreed to proceed with the dry run of the mock use case through the Sustainability Committee to further test the process, with a commitment to revisit the initial reviews effectiveness at the next board meeting.

Next Steps:

- The mock use case will be taken to the Sustainability Committee for a dry run review on July 3rd.
- Future meetings are scheduled for July 18th, August 15th, and September 19th, with agenda adjustments based on feedback from this meeting.

Close

- Recap Action Items
 - ACTION: Prepare for signatures on the MOU and Agency-specific DSA in late July. DSA addenda to follow.
- Next Month's Agenda
 - Dry run of Use Case Review Process Continued
 - Revisit Research Agenda
- Adjourn Public Meeting