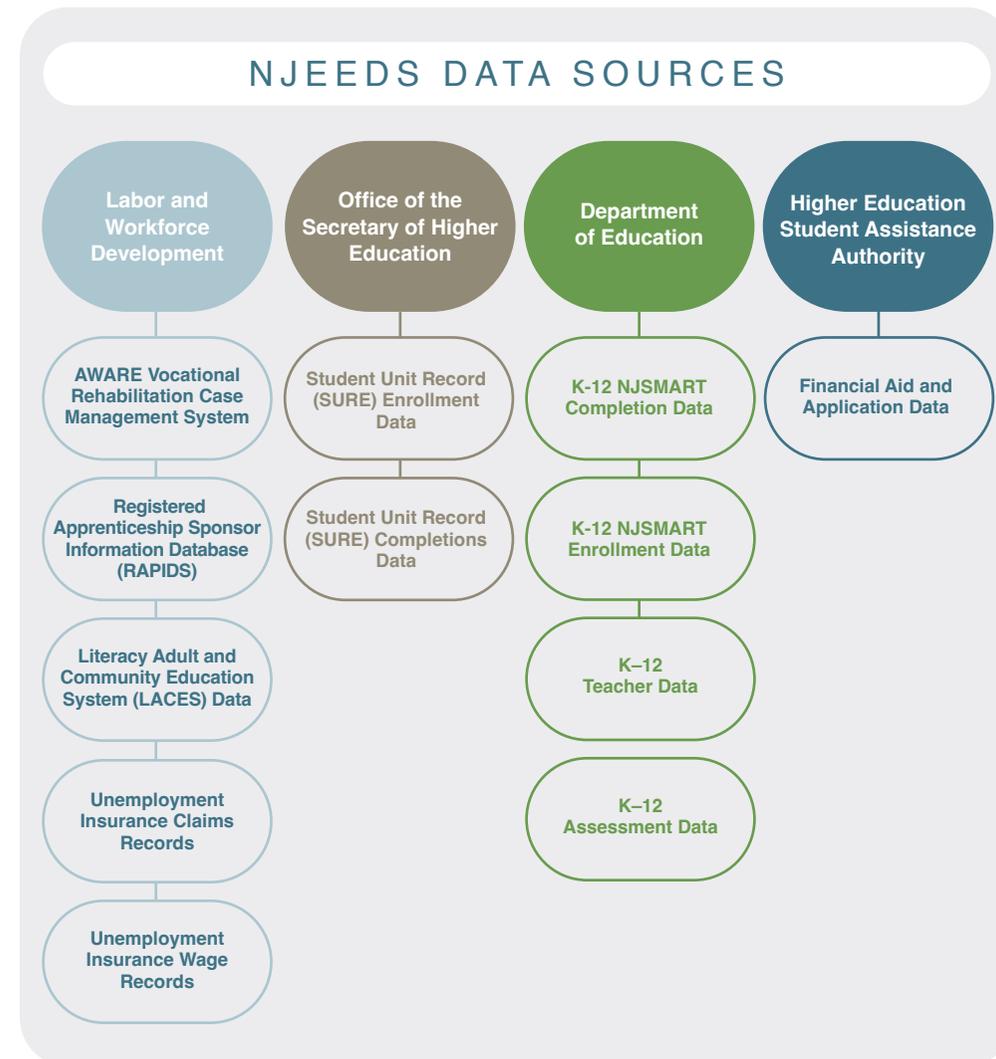


The New Jersey Education to Earnings Data System (NJEEDS) is the State of New Jersey's centralized longitudinal data system for education and workforce data. Its mission is to safely use the state's existing administrative data for evidence-based policymaking. Developed in 2012 through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, NJEEDS creates a single place where state education, postsecondary education, employment, and workforce longitudinal data are securely stored to help stakeholders make data-informed decisions to improve student learning and labor market outcomes. The data system is owned by the State of New Jersey and operated by the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

NJEEDS is a collaboration between four New Jersey state agencies, each sharing individual-level data.

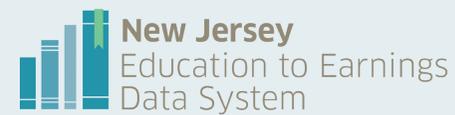


Additional data from training providers and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's case management system will be included in the future.

Contact us for more information about the New Jersey Education to Earnings Data System.

New Jersey Education to Earnings Data System
 John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development
 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
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 New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



New Jersey Department of Education
 New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
 New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority
 New Jersey Office of the Secretary of Higher Education



Edward J. Bloustein School
 of Planning and Public Policy
 JOHN J. HELDRICH CENTER
 FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



HIGHLIGHTS

Applied Data Analytics Training

NJEEDS' first Applied Data Analytics training course was held in April 2021. With the support of the Coleridge Initiative, the course is designed to introduce the data, data science concepts, and research design process using a team-based approach to apply the learned concepts. NJEEDS plans to offer this training annually for new state employees, academic researchers, and students interested in learning how to leverage data science tools to analyze administrative data.

Eastern States Longitudinal Data Collaborative

The Eastern States Longitudinal Data Collaborative (ESLDC), comprised of the eastern U.S. states and Washington, D.C., continued to grow in 2021. Throughout the year, the collaborative worked on furthering its mission to advance coordination on ideal practices to manage the data systems, develop solutions to address challenges in analyzing educational and workforce agency data, and pool resources that will allow data analysts to create products that inform public policy. Additionally, this past fall, member partners collaborated on two grant applications for the Coleridge Initiative's Democratizing our Data: A Challenge to Invest in Data and Evidence-based Policy funding opportunity.

A full ESLDC membership meeting will be held in 2022.

New Jersey Longitudinal Data Systems Advisory Committee

In the fall of 2021, NJEEDS and its counterpart system for early childhood education, the New Jersey Enterprise Analysis System for Early Learning, approved a charter to establish the New Jersey Longitudinal Data Systems Advisory Committee. Expected to commence in 2022, this new body will consist of agency data owners, the Chief Data Officer for New Jersey, and the project directors for each system. The Advisory Committee will help coordinate activities across all the state's data systems and reduce any duplication of effort.

NJEEDS De-identified Data System and State Agency Access

The NJEEDS De-Identified Data System, hosted at the Coleridge Initiative's Administrative Data Research Facility, is expected to be available to the public in early 2022. NJEEDS staff worked throughout 2021 to clean and prepare data files for external researchers to safely access data within the system. Data users, consisting of state agencies and select researchers, will have a suite of data tools available for use, including R Studio and Jupyter notebooks. Training support will also be made available.

NJEEDS' objective is to provide access to data while protecting the privacy and confidentiality of the individuals whose records are in the system. To ensure the highest levels of data security, NJEEDS is built on a multi-level system that uses a combination of information technology best practices, de-identification, ethical data use, authorization, and training for all users.

DATA EXPLORATION

New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

In early 2021, the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA) requested NJEEDS staff use NJEEDS data for two research projects. The Tuition Aid Grant study will compare graduation rates of recipients to the graduation rates for all students by institution to learn more about student outcomes. The New Jersey Governor's Industry Vocations Scholarship for Women and Minorities analysis will examine workforce outcomes for participants in the program to evaluate the initiative's benefit on individual earnings. Both projects are expected to be complete by late 2022.

Research Approved by the NJEEDS Executive Leadership Committee

In September 2021, the NJEEDS Executive Leadership Committee approved four products to be developed and released under the current research agenda. The following products will be released on the NJEEDS website in 2022:

- **Higher Education Outcomes Dashboard:** This dashboard will include workforce outcomes of postsecondary graduates from 2013 to 2017 up to three years post-graduation. These outcomes include employment levels and annual wages, shown by cohort, institution, and program of study.
- **Postsecondary Graduate and Workforce Migration:** Building on prior work on postsecondary student migration, this report will answer to what extent students who move to New Jersey for college stay in the state following graduation. This will answer an important question that is missing from the postsecondary migration debate regarding how much New Jersey benefits from the talent, education, and skills coming into the state from postsecondary students who move to and stay in the state.
- **Individual and Societal Benefits of Higher Education:** This product will use descriptive statistics to demonstrate the differences in outcomes by educational level, reporting measures such as earnings growth over time, variation of earnings within levels of education, earnings by major and educational level, and unemployment by educational level.
- **Educational Opportunity Fund/New Jersey Governor's Industry Vocations Scholarship for Women and Minorities Program Evaluation:** These analyses will provide a long-term and powerful review of two critical programs for New Jersey postsecondary students, showing how these programs affect students' postsecondary retention and graduation and their eventual employment outcomes.

For more information about NJEEDS and NJEEDS initiatives, visit www.njeeds.org

FUTURE INITIATIVES

Research Grants

With funding support from the U.S. Department of Education's Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant, a small grant program is being launched that will allow researchers to submit data access requests for research that is aligned with NJEEDS' priorities. Approved applicants will receive a small grant, training, and access to NJEEDS data to complete their research. Data system and participating state agency staff will provide support in data access and expertise.

Internship Program

The NJEEDS Internship Program will allow for one graduate student intern to be assigned to each of the participating NJEEDS state agencies to support internal data use. The internship program will feature training on NJEEDS data and facilitated research projects supported by agency staff. Interns will receive an hourly wage, participate for one summer, and present their findings to agency staff at the end of the summer.

Both programs are expected to begin in early 2022.

CURRENT FUNDING

NJEEDS funding and operating expenses have varied by year, but recent efforts have been made to accurately project and stabilize funding. The system is primarily supported through partner agency contributions and federal grants such as the U.S. Department of Education's Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grant. Currently, operating expenses are estimated to be around \$1.5 million annually. The NJEEDS budget is split into two main categories: base costs (administration, governance, database operations) and agency research activities (reports, new data sources, training). Base costs are approximately \$891,000 per year, while research activities are \$620,000 per year.

NJEEDS OPERATING EXPENSES

