Building Robust SLDS: Strategies for Framework Integration

Isabel McMullen, PhD Student
University of Wisconsin-Madison

SREE Summer Fellow
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Project Questions

01 What policies are most effective for building SLDS?

02 What encourages the use of "public good" tools?

03 What lessons can we learn from the local level?

Research Strategy

01 **Understand the landscape of SLDS policies**
- Policy briefs
- SLDS Websites/Dashboards
- Legislation
- Case studies
- Frameworks and tools for system improvements.

02 **Define what "robust" means for SLDS**
- Research articles
- Interviews with SLDS stakeholders from different states, sectors, and agencies (10 experts in total).

03 **Identify best practices and lessons learned**
- Iterate steps 1 and 2.

04 **Circle back to the framework**
- What policy areas are open to new knowledge and in need?
- Built recommended strategies for integrating the framework into SLDS.

Scope

01 **States of particular focus:**

Michigan

Maryland

New Mexico

Tennessee

(Also: Indiana, California, Massachusetts)

02 **Wide-ranging expertise**

Researchers in SLDS world

Local program manager and system analyst

Data architect

Statistician

Resources from non-profits, federal publications

Peer-reviewed, and non-peer-reviewed

03 **Different sectors**

State Departments of Ed

State Department of Finance and Administration

Local think-tank

University researchers + program staff

Findings

Resources and Infrastructure

- **Financial Incentives**
  - Federal, state, private
  - Role of universities
- **Legislation**
  - Compel linkages
  - Restructure reporting
  - Change incentives
- **Governance**
  - Make clear and centralized
  - Establish early

Critical Individuals

- **Champions**
  - Project leader
  - Data authority
- **Stakeholders**
  - Across all sectors
  - Up and down entire system
- **Shared vision**
  - Political will
  - Common language

Policy Conditions

- **New windows of opportunity**
  - Changes to data technology or capability
  - New standards
  - Different needs for data use

Findings

Strong Feedback Systems

- **Working and advisory groups**
  - Laboratories of new ideas
  - Include stakeholders at all levels
- **Formalize the process**
  - Room for expansion (only 11 states with a process for feedback)

Professional Development

- **Expand system knowledge**
  - Webinars, workshops, training
- **Conferences**
  - Cross-state learning
- **Use Creative Comms Strategies**
  - Legislative lunch and learn

Strategic Efforts

- **Effective Dashboards**
  - Built iteratively
  - Designed for multiple purpose
- **Strategic planning**
  - Role of consultants
  - Federal consultant group (State Support Team)
- **Avoid Mandates**

Findings

Trust is Key

- **Misreporting can happen**
  - Breakdowns of trust cause bad data
- **Multilateral sharing**
  - States must share data back
  - Timely, so it can be used in decision-making

Sensitive Data May Need Additional Protections

- **Surveys**
- **Status of unhoused, foster youth**
- **Expulsions, suspensions**
- **Teacher data**
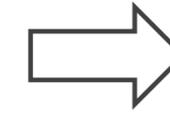 - Especially sensitive when funding is tied to evaluations

Barriers Exist

- **Security and Privacy Concerns**
  - Hard to address with one tool
- **Importance of good authority**
  - Pointing to other resources

Putting it together

FRAMEWORK INTEGRATION

Right Conditions → **Make Best Use of Available tools**

Spaces where stakeholders are already learning

- Move systems from necessary reporting stage to people and policy-serving purposes

- In localized systems of government and education, strategies work differently

- Incentivizing many strategies is effective

THANK YOU