



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What types of assistance can the State Support Team (SST) provide my state?

The SST provides several types of assistance, including:

- facilitating webinars on specific topics;
- connecting you with other states working on similar issues;
- providing remote and/or on-site technical assistance to individual states; and
- hosting topical working groups for states.

## On what topics does the SST provide guidance?

The SST offers technical assistance (TA) on a broad range of topics, including a growing set of services addressing early childhood data, K12 and P-20W data governance, and stakeholder outreach. The SST has also provided assistance in areas including coordination and linkage of data across state agencies; collaboration with local education agencies; and development of data dictionaries. They have also reviewed RFPs to provide feedback on data security, conducted cost-benefit analysis on a federated data model approach, and helped define a governance structure for early childhood agencies and programs. These areas of support are based on states' needs and will grow as the challenges in the field evolve.

## Who are the SST members?

The SST is comprised of former K12 state education agency, early childhood education organization, and

Higher Education agency personnel who have years of leadership experience in planning, building, and overseeing the use of longitudinal data systems. For more information on their areas of expertise, please see the *Meet the State Support Team* document.

## Can the SST provide guidance about how to improve my state's chances of being awarded an SLDS grant?

No. The SST members do not serve on the review committee that makes SLDS grant award decisions and they do not make recommendations to that committee. Their purpose is to help states improve the planning, development, and use of longitudinal data systems, independent of how they are funded.

## How do I request assistance from the SST?

The two ways to request assistance are through: 1) the "State Support Requests" tab of the GRADS<sup>360</sup> website (<https://nces.grads360.org>) or 2) if you do not have a GRADS account, just send a request to [support@sst-slds.org](mailto:support@sst-slds.org).

## After I've requested SST assistance, what are the next steps?

Within a week of submitting your request, an SST member will contact you via email to arrange an initial phone call. The purpose of this call is to review the

area(s) in which your state would like assistance, discuss various options for how the SST can deliver that assistance, and formulate an initial technical assistance plan for your state.

## Is there a charge for the SST services?

No. The services provided by the SST are offered as part of the support made available to states' SLDS efforts through the Institute of Education Sciences at no charge to states.

## What is the relationship between the SST and state monitoring under the SLDS Program?

The SST's role is to provide assistance to states to improve the design, development, and use of their longitudinal data systems. It does not have monitoring authority under the SLDS Program. Unlike SLDS site visits with U.S. Department of Education staff, technical assistance visits do not result in a set of official findings or recommendations, unless the state requests them.

## Are states that have not received an SLDS grant (or that have a completed SLDS grant) eligible for SST assistance?

Yes! All states are eligible for SST assistance, regardless of whether they have an SLDS grant.

