



## **Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Data System (Outcomes Database)**

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### **What is the Outcomes Database?**

The Outcomes Database is a shared resource of the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE), the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), and the University of Alaska (UA), used to securely share data to evaluate outcomes of programs managed by one of these four organizations. The Outcomes Database is currently housed at ACPE.

### **What is the history of the Outcomes Database? Is it related to ANSWERS?**

The Outcomes Database was initially developed under the ANSWERS program, but it is not part of the ANSWERS program, which is now defunct, and it is not used for ANSWERS research.

In July 2012, the State of Alaska was awarded a \$4 million federal Institute of Education Services (IES) grant to build a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). Alaska's SLDS was created in accordance with [Administrative Order 261](#) and named ANSWERS. The purpose of ANSWERS was to link K-12, postsecondary and workforce data to provide critical information about Alaska's education and workforce outcomes. However, a 2016 amendment to the budget bill prevented use of federal receipts for ANSWERS in FY17, which resulted in a lack of funding to develop the proposed ANSWERS program and use the database created under the original grant.

In December 2016, Outcomes partner organizations agreed to retire the ANSWERS program and the associated plan for data expansion and use; the database created under the ANSWERS grant still exists and is now called the Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Database (Outcomes). Outcomes is being managed by ACPE as an internal resource and tool for the four partner agencies to analyze and evaluate outcomes of partner programs and services only.

### **Does the Outcomes Database collect new data?**

No. The Outcomes Database de-identifies and links existing data only, and then stores the data in the state's secure data center.

## **What does HB221 do?**

The purpose of HB221 is to allow the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to share unit-level unemployment insurance data with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education for inclusion in the Alaska Education and Workforce Outcomes Data System. In accordance with Outcomes governance, only data for citizens who participated in the Alaska's public education system can be included in Outcomes.

HB221 prohibits sharing unit record data with the federal government.

HB221 also requires that records be de-identified. Personally identifiable information, including first name, last name, and middle name, social security number, student identification number, residential address, and mailing address is removed before placing the information in the database. This is consistent with current practice and governance requirements.

## **Do other states share unit-level labor/workforce data?**

As of 2016, 28 states are sharing their state's labor/workforce data with their state's longitudinal data system; this is an increase of eight states since 2014.