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## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### MISSISSIPPI'S PK-16 LONGITUDINAL DATA INITIATIVE

**Project Start Date: 4/1/2009**

**Project End Date: 3/31/2012**

**Amount Awarded: \$3,387,308**

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) currently maintains and facilitates a custom-built statewide student level database system referred to as MSIS (Mississippi Student Information System).

MSIS provides for the electronic collection and storage of comprehensive detailed data about teachers, administrators, students, and school board members. MSIS also allows for the electronic transfer of student records from one school district to another, thus offering a unique student tracking system. This data is collected on a daily and monthly basis.

Also, the State Workforce Investment Board has been working to consolidate and strengthen the workforce development system. A new accountability system, the Integrated Workforce Performance System, has been developed and implemented to collect and analyze the results of training and placement efforts across all public agencies. Participating agencies are Mississippi Department of Employment Security, State Board for Community and Junior Colleges, Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi Department of Education, and the Mississippi Department of Corrections. In addition, there is another great data initiative that is being facilitated by the Research and Curriculum Unit (RCU) under contract for the MDE. The RCU was established to foster educational enhancements and innovations. The Research and Evaluation Section (R/E) of the RCU was established to conduct research and evaluation as requested by the various divisions of MDE with the goal of improving instruction and student learning in the public schools of Mississippi.

Although Mississippi has these great comprehensive data sets and the ability to match student records between the secondary and post secondary world, and the support of all its Educational Partners in this PK-16 initiative, Mississippi still lacks the funding to take it to the next level, that of full integration of data sets. Therefore, Mississippi seeks to utilize the Longitudinal Grant to expand its existing K-12 statewide data systems, known as MSIS, and integrate the systems and related data of Mississippi's Workforce Performance Management System and the RCU. This expansion will allow Mississippi to create consolidation of PK-16 systems, assess the extent to which high school graduates are adequately prepared for work or further education, and allow Mississippi the capacity to send and receive transcripts of students applying to postsecondary educational institutions, and/or moving across State lines.

It is Mississippi's hope that this initiative will serve as a model PK-16 initiative that can be replicated and integrated to any states' environment, and allow them to meet the various reporting requirements; support data driven decision-making at the state, district, school, and classroom levels; and facilitate research needed to eliminate achievement gaps and improve instruction and learning of all students.