

## **P-20 Related Questions for Consideration by the Interoperability System Council**

At the first workgroup meeting, members brainstormed a list of questions related to educational outcomes that would require the linking of data systems from K-12, post-secondary and labor. The task before the workgroup in 2010 is to ultimately develop 2-4 policy/data briefs to illuminate issues that will entice policymakers to want to take action to improve education, as well as illustrate the power and necessity of developing a P-20 data system in CT.

When reviewing the list of P-20 related questions, the workgroup asks the Interoperability System Council to consider the following:

1. Is the question able to be answered with currently available data?
2. What data is needed to respond?
3. Where does it exist? Who has the data?
4. What are the challenges? Formatting? Matching variables? Data definitions? Time to compile? Other?
5. What level is the data able to be analyzed? (statewide, district, high school, other)
6. What breakouts/characteristics can we analyze it by? (gender, race/ethnicity, SES)
7. Can part but not all the question be answered?
8. What is an estimated timeframe by which the question could be answered, either in part or in whole?
9. Are there other questions that the P20 Council group didn't consider that could/should be asked? What are they?

## **High Priority Questions**

### **Success after High School**

#### **General: Information to School Districts about Student Success in Post-secondary Education**

12. What happens to high school graduates by school district?
- How many students enter post-secondary institutions? Immediately after high school? Within 2 years of graduating high school?
  - Which institutions are they entering?
  - How many are persisting to their second year?
  - How many are graduating? Within 3 years for 2-year degrees? Within 6 years for 4-year degrees? Within X year from occupational schools?
  - How many high school graduates go directly into the labor force v. postsecondary education? What fields do they enter?

#### **System Characteristics: K-12 District Characteristics Related to Student Success in Post-secondary Education**

- 21 & 24. What are the characteristics of the schools with successful outcomes for students? Are there different student outcomes for districts in CT that have similar characteristics?
- Where success means students enrolling in, persisting to second year, and being graduated from higher education institutions, what are the characteristics of these graduating school districts?
    - Breakouts by DRG and district level.
  - What are the stories for these school districts? How are they able to be successful compared to similar schools with lesser outcomes?
    - Breakouts by DRG and district level.

### **Remediation**

2. Why is there so much need for remediation?
- How many students are testing as needing remediation upon entry into college? (math, English, both)
    - Breakouts at the statewide, DRG, district levels

### **School Preparedness**

15. How ready are 2009 entering kindergarteners compared to 2008?
- What are the characteristics of those scoring “not ready”?

## Additional Questions

### Outcomes of Students of Specific Characteristics

9 & 10. Are educational outcomes for DCF-involved youth significantly different from their non-involved peers?

25. What is the impact of family mobility on student success? What are the costs of mobility to the district, classroom?

- What is the college-going rate of students with high mobility?
- Is there a district or handful of districts that we can look at this by?

26. Do magnet schools do better than non-magnet schools?

*8. What are the educational outcomes of students that participated in Birth-to-3 services compared to their peers?*

### Dropouts

6 & 7. What happens to dropouts? How well do high school graduates do in the labor force?

- How many high school dropouts return to get their high school diploma/credential?
- Of those that obtain their high school credential, how many go onto post secondary education?
- Of those that do not return, how many are in the workforce?

### Success after High School

#### **General: Information to School Districts about Student Success in Post-secondary Education**

*22 & 23. Why are there fewer males in higher education than females? Where are males going after high school? Are there workforce needs that require less than a postsecondary degree that are geared more toward males than females?*

#### **Individual Characteristics**

13. Do math course enrollment and outcomes relate to math outcomes in higher education?

- At the district level, what math course-taking behavior leads to successful math taking in college? (i.e. 4 years of math in high school; particular math courses at particular years in high school)

*11. What are the differences between dropouts and graduates?*

*19. How does financial aid impact the success of students in higher education?*

## **System Characteristics: K-12 District Characteristics Related to Student Success in Post-secondary Education**

1. *Why is there such a mismatch between high school and postsecondary curriculum alignment?*
  - *Rephrased: What are the high school course taking characteristics of students going onto college needing remediation?*
  
14. *How do technology challenges/deficiencies in districts impact student learning?*
  - *Rephrased: What are the technology characteristics in districts compared to student success?*
  
20. *How does knowledge of resources impact college-going?*
  - *Rephrased: Are there school/system characteristics or practices related to information sharing about resources present at schools with high levels of college-going students? Are these present at schools with low college-going rates?*

## **Issue Development Questions**

27. What is the mindset of 5<sup>th</sup> graders, 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 12<sup>th</sup> graders, parents, higher education faculty, labor force? Is there a disconnect with expectations?
  - These stories may help us to build our messages.

## **Others**

3. *What does it take to get high school students to enroll in appropriate higher education? (Need to understand “appropriate.”)*
  
4. *What does it take to get college goers to succeed to graduation?*
  
17. *How are schools doing with teaching critical thinking?*