In pursuit of its vision and mission, the NESSC will convene a Data Strategic Action Team to advise on the collection, analysis, and reporting of baseline and subsequent annual data related to progress towards the 2016 Goals as stated below:

- Increase four-year, on-time graduation rates across the five states to 90% or higher;
- Decrease annual dropout rates to less than 1%;
- Increase the percentage of students enrolling in two and four-year college degree programs or pursuing industry-certified accredited post-secondary certificates to 80% or higher; and
- Reduce the number of students required to take remedial courses during their first year of college to 5% or less. Note: a college readiness index comprised of multiple indicators is under development and when in place it would, most likely, be the NESSC regional, state, and local measure for this goal.

The Data Strategic Action Team will include:

1. Executive Director and Senior Policy Advisor for the Great Schools Partnership (facilitator)
2. Data Coordinator for NESSC.
3. Data directors and analysts from the five departments of education.
4. Data staff and researchers from collegiate institutions.
5. Director of Research and Director of Policy for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation.
6. NESSC liaisons, additional SEA staff, and other professionals as needed.

The Data Strategic Action Team will:

2. Strengthen the individual and collective understanding of the content and context of the NESSC work relative to the 2016 Goals and other key measures of progress.
3. Review and advise on the development of a college readiness index.
4. Assist in ensuring comparability of data collection practices so that states and commissioners can report on key attainment measures to their publics using the common NESSC rules and processes.
5. Share best practices and discuss solutions to issues in a collegial, collaborative setting.