



# Data Team

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 | 9:30 AM – 3:00PM

Grappone Conference Center, Concord, NH  
MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting of the NESSC Data Team was called to order at 9:38 AM in the Concord Room at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, NH.

Those in attendance included: Janet Fiderio, Craig Weller, Dina Rabuck, Leah Piatt, Rick Bergeron, Lisa Plimpton, and Duke Albanese. Chuck Martie from Connecticut joined via phone, as did Ken Gu from Rhode Island. Hayley Didriksen, soon to join GSP and the NESSC Data Team, participated in the afternoon session by phone.

All NESSC states were represented except Vermont.

The meeting began with introductions and welcomes to new members representing the member SEAs. It was announced that Hayley Didriksen will be the new Director of Research at GSP and will partner with Lisa Plimpton in working toward the publication of the 2019 NESSC Data Report.

The agenda moved to state updates. Data representatives shared several highlights from their respective states:

- New Hampshire: the rollout of new report cards for schools and districts in NH with the NH DOE helping locals with interpretation; NH is linking its NSC data with new college feed of data through a partnership with NH public colleges and universities; NH is in the process of signing a new, improved contract with NSC
- Maine reported a Generate project being brought on as state data warehouse has been shutdown and an RFP pulled back; ME is getting a handle on data requests from outside of state government, responding as best they can with the data warehouse down; like other states ME has been rolling out new report cards
- Massachusetts has reworked its accountability and will be releasing report cards soon; MA has pursued data sharing with agreements with Labor and Motor Vehicles; school funding formula changes are in major discussion in Mass ( and in NH and other NE states); determining economically disadvantaged students, which contributes to state aid is under scrutiny, for a host of reasons, including a difference between poverty rates and free and reduced school nutrition eligibility
- Rhode Island: the lower performance of students vis a vis MA has caused a firestorm of discussion and activity by policymakers and citizens; issues like teacher absenteeism and its inclusion in the accountability system has become a big issue in RI; offering free tuition to more students in RI has been successful (community college improved by 7 percentage points) and may be expanded
- Connecticut: the announcement of a new commissioner is pending; an interactive CT state report is about to be launched, as well as Next Gen accountability; CT has a new Early Indication tool that will be operational soon for Pre-K – 12, showing readiness for success at various levels; local school districts are pleased with the new exchange of student-level longitudinal data points that they have never had



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access to; districts in CT with the DOE are developing and cataloguing various intervention strategies that are then shared across schools; there is improving and exciting data exchange among the Dept of Labor, CT DOE and CT public and private colleges.

The business of the day proceeded to a discussion of the 2018 NESSC Data Report and the process that leads to submissions. The Data Team reflected on all aspects of the annual report from new measures like race/ethnicity to the timeline and revised definitions. A discussion ensued. There were several commendations including the state and regional context pages. It was suggested that we should all work to expand exposure and use of the NESSC Data Report. Several states would like to add it to or feature it more prominently on their websites. Several team members would like to see the Tableau interactive piece expand to include subgroup data.

The National Student Clearinghouse was next on the agenda. Representatives Sue Ledwell, Northeast Regional Director for NSC, and Afet Dundar, Director of the Research Center joined the meeting by phone. Data Team representatives engaged in a question and answer format to dig into the post secondary data that NSC provides to each state department/agency.

A rich exchange followed as the Data Team took advantage of the opportunity to clarify reporting of college going, persistence, and college graduation data. Highlights included: contract times and durations; match rates of students and colleges; proper ways to connect to NSC staff; the offer of Sue Ledwell to be the first contact person for the six New England states, both for data and contract questions; the effects of FERPA on individual cases (about 4%) that will cause differences in the aggregate; states having higher numbers from other sources than NSC; differentiating high school students that are Early College/Dual Enrollment from matriculating college students; noting that 97% of public and private colleges have contracts with NSC; and an extended discussion about timing of accessing NSC data to satisfy state reporting to feds and NESSC.

Conversation turned to non-college degrees and credentials of value and whether NSC will become a provider of that data to states and schools. NSC reported that they are working to some extent on credentials of value as they engage with those colleges in higher education that have opted to access these alternatives to college degrees. And NSC agreed to connect the Data Team to an in-house expert who is working on efforts to capture credentials of value in a few select industries.

Lunch – 12:00 – 12:45 PM

A review and extended discussion ensued of the upcoming data collection process leading to the publishing of the 2019 NESSC Data Report. The proposed Timeline for submissions was reviewed and compared to 2018. After discussion, the proposed NESSC Data Timeline was approved by the Team (see attached).



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The Procedural Guidebook was reviewed with a discussion about college enrollment and the distinction between immediate (4 months) and delayed (16 months) matriculation. Data Coordinator Lisa Plimpton elicited feedback from those in attendance. Federal requirements for EdFacts reporting was discussed, and it is unclear which timeframe is required for the reports due in early February. For NESSC, it was decided to continue collecting immediate (4 months) college enrollment, and for this year to also collect delayed college enrollment (16 months) college enrollment for the graduating class of 2017. This will allow us to examine gap year effects for student subgroups, compare states, and decide whether to report these data, and whether to continue collecting both college enrollment measures.

A review followed of the NESSC Data Template. The Team, after considerable discussion of Extended High School Graduation and clarification, decided to allow states to report extended graduation as either five-year or six-year graduation as the reported Extended Graduation measure. A host of other issues was discussed, including whether states should include all students, including those who are out-placed, or only public school students, in their NESSC reporting. States have been following different practices, and the group decided to report all students (even out-placed students) going forward.

A conversation ensued about possible additions to the annual Data Report as discussed and requested by the NESSC Leads and other policy makers. A data index of key indicators of College and Career Readiness; further disaggregation of data between subgroups such as Economically Disadvantaged w/Disability or Race/Gender; school district data displays; mobility; rural v. urban; foster and military student subgroups; and demographics of teaching and administrative staffs across New England, with special attention focused on diversity and the lack thereof. Issues raised included capacity, availability of data in all states, and priorities.

Lisa Plimpton reiterated her next steps and follow-ups:

- Send contact information for NSC representatives to the team
- Revise 2019 data template and circulate to the team for feedback
- Procedural guidebook: rewrite and share extended graduation and college enrollment definitions and draft language on reporting aggregated district data rather than public-school-only data

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Plimpton, NESSC Data Coordinator and Duke Albanese, Senior Policy Advisor

Attachments: 2019 Approved Timeline for Submissions and Updated NESSC Data Team and Contacts