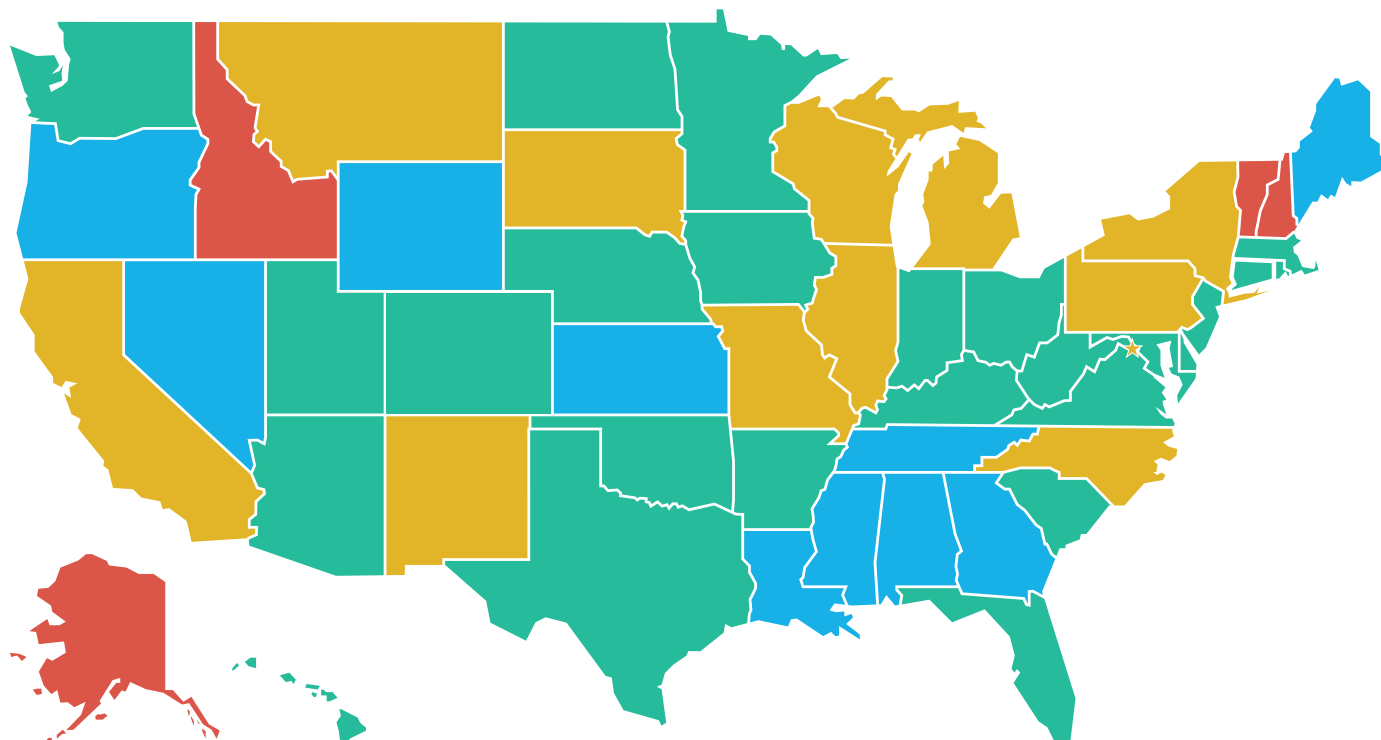


8.

Affords researchers' access to individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets

Research portals with pre-matched, individual-level datasets save researchers time and effort by providing them with clean, ready-to-use data for analysis. As a result, researchers can generate more insights to improve postsecondary education and training systems.



Element 8 Criteria	Rating	Total States
The state has individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets for third party researcher access, and there is a clear description of a research request and approval process.	Leading 	25
The state has individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets but is limited in at least one of the following: researcher access (e.g., internal researchers or state agency staff) or clarity on approval or request process.	Advanced 	10
The state is in the process of developing individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets for researcher access or has published a research agenda.	Developing 	12
The state allows for researcher access to aggregate data only, or the state has no individual level matched education-to-opportunity datasets identified through its response and Strada's research.	Foundational 	4

State	Rating	Description and Resource Links
Alabama	●	Alabama has individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets but access is limited to higher education institutions.
Alaska	●	Alaska provides researchers access to aggregate education-to-opportunity datasets. The request and review process is not publicly documented.
Arizona	●	Arizona provides researchers access to individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets and provides clearly documented request and review processes . Additionally, the state has published a research agenda , so that external research aligns with state priorities.
Arkansas	●	Arkansas has established the Arkansas Research Environment in the Administrative Data Research Facility. Through this environment, researchers can access person-level information that has been assigned a pseudonym identifier. The datasets are pre-matched across PSET programs into employment with transparency into linkage methods and metadata for sensitivity training and record linkage bias mitigation. The system has an online application form and a unified interagency approval process. Additionally, state agencies can access individual-level data for operational purposes through the Arkansas Data Hub.
California	●	California is developing a process for researchers to request deidentified, individual-level data that is linked to postsecondary education and workforce data summaries.
Colorado	●	The Linked Information Network of Colorado (LINC) provides deidentified education-to-opportunity data to researchers upon request , and LINC describes the request and review process. Summaries of approved projects are publicly available.
Connecticut	●	Connecticut's P20 WIN SLDS provides, upon approved request, deidentified longitudinal data that covers PSET information from participating agencies. Researchers, policymakers, analysts, and evaluators can submit proposals that outline the benefit of the research project to the state, including how the request aligns with a participating agency's priorities or P20 WIN's learning agenda . Data requesters can access a data dictionary prior to submitting their applications to be approved by a data governing board.
Delaware	●	The Delaware Education Research Alliance (DERA), a collaboration between the Delaware Department of Education, Delaware State University, and the University of Delaware's College of Education and Human Development, affords researchers access to individual-level education-to-opportunity datasets. Most research projects are submitted in response to DERA's request for proposals, ensuring that research addresses state priorities.
Florida	●	The Florida Department of Education has individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets for third party researcher access. The state clearly describes the request and review process , including that requests are evaluated for alignment with state priorities.
Georgia	●	External researchers can partner with researchers affiliated with Georgia higher education institutions and then submit requests to access individual-level data.
Hawaii	●	The state provides external researcher access through a clearly documented request and review process . The state has published a research and policy agenda , so that external requests can align with state priorities.
Idaho	●	The Educational Analytics System of Idaho provides aggregate postsecondary data to researchers upon request . The state does not provide access to individual-level education-to-opportunity datasets.
Illinois	●	Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University manages the Illinois Longitudinal Data System and is developing a process by which external researchers can request individual-level education-to-opportunity datasets. Additionally, the state provides higher education institutions access to their graduates' workforce outcomes through an institutional research portal.
Indiana	●	The Indiana Management Performance Hub has established an Education and Workforce Development database and has a clear description of request and approval processes for both row-level deidentified data and confidential data. Researchers may also request access to row-level deidentified higher education data through the Commission for Higher Education's online data request form .
Iowa	●	Iowa integrates and provides individual-level data as needed for specific, approved projects after requestors follow standard data request processes . Individual-level data are made available to evaluators or researchers to support data-driven decision making. While not public, Iowa's SLDS maintains a research agenda to guide external data requests.

State	Rating	Description and Resource Links
Kansas	●	Researchers can request deidentified individual-level data through the Kansas Board of Regents' data governance committee. Though there are some exceptions, researchers have to work within the agency's system to access the data and may not remove data from the system. Kansas has engaged researchers on multiple occasions, and research often focuses on postsecondary graduation outcomes and employment placement and earnings. The state publishes research findings , but the request and approval review is not clearly documented.
Kentucky	●	The Kentucky Center for Statistics provides researchers with individual-level, deidentified K-12 and postsecondary, and employment data under a data sharing agreement. The state has a clearly documented request process , and the state has published a research agenda .
Louisiana	●	Louisiana has individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets for research use, but access is limited to Louisiana's Foundational Integrated Research Center for Transformation.
Maine	●	Maine's Department of Labor provides authorized external researchers with linked postsecondary and employment data upon request. The data request procedure is not clearly documented on the department's website.
Maryland	●	The Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center provides researcher access to a mix of pre-matched and pre-built datasets via request. Some researchers may be granted access to deidentified individual-level data. The Center has a published research agenda and clear project management and approval procedures .
Massachusetts	●	Massachusetts provides researchers' access to individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets upon execution of a memorandum of understanding. Each agency of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education as well as the Education-to-Career Research and Data Hub have identified and published their research priorities . Massachusetts encourages research proposals to align with agency research agendas.
Michigan	●	Michigan's Center for Data and Analytics (MDCA) is deploying a system for researchers to gain access to individual-level matched education-to-employment datasets. Researchers will be approved by individual agencies which own the data housed in the MCDA research system.
Minnesota	●	The Minnesota Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDs) provides researchers matched student data from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education and employment. The deidentified data are available by application , and the SLEDs Research and Data Committee reviews applications for their alignment with state and SLEDs research priorities. Research leveraging SLEDs data is published on the system's website .
Mississippi	●	Mississippi State University's National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center (NSPARC) is contracted with Mississippi's SLDS Governing Board to provide research and analysis services to fulfill approved requests. The requesting and review process is not clearly documented online.
Missouri	●	The P20W Research and Data Center , housed within Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development , is currently collaborating with partner agencies on a draft data governance framework that will formalize a process for requesting linked deidentified data. Data have been provided in the past on an ad hoc basis.
Montana	●	In 2023, Montana established the Education and Workforce Data Governing Board . The Board is responsible for drafting policies and processes related to education-to-employment data sharing, including regarding research requests. The Board has published a research agenda , so future requests can be evaluated for their alignment with state priorities.
Nebraska	●	The Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System has individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets for third party researcher access, and there are clear processes for request, review and sharing of results. Additionally, the state has published a research agenda .
Nevada	●	Nevada, through the Nevada P-20 to Workforce Research Data System (NPWR) Research Portal , affords researchers access to individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets, though the request and review process is not clearly documented. Most research projects are submitted in response to NPWR's request for proposals, ensuring that research addresses state priorities. The state publishes reports from completed projects.
New Hampshire	●	No evidence was identified through the state's response or in Strada's research of the state demonstrating this element.

State	Rating	Description and Resource Links
New Jersey	●	The New Jersey Statewide Data System provides external researchers with deidentified, individual-level data from across state agencies. The data available include K-12, higher education, and workforce and training information. An executive leadership committee reviews requests to access these data, and all requests must align with the state's research agenda . Researchers can also access data dictionaries that provide details of the potential datasets available prior to applying.
New Mexico	●	The New Mexico Higher Education Department provides individual-level education datasets, upon request . Research Informing Success in Education is launching a Data Request Portal through which external researchers can request access to individual-level linked education-to-opportunity datasets.
New York	●	New York provides researchers at the Community College Research Center and New York City Public Schools access to integrated education-to-employment data, but there is not a clearly documented process for other external research to request access to individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets.
North Carolina	●	In 2025, the North Carolina Longitudinal Data Service will provide a data request form so that researchers can request individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets. North Carolina has published research and policy learning goals .
North Dakota	●	North Dakota's SLDS provides authorized external researchers with postsecondary and workforce data upon request . The state has published its research priorities.
Ohio	●	The Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive (OLDA) combines data from several state agencies such as the Ohio Department of Higher Education, Ohio Department of Education, and the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services. The platform provides internal and external researchers with pre-matched datasets across PSET programs and into employment through a data request application process . Ohio publishes results of studies conducted using OLDA records.
Oklahoma	●	Oklahoma has individual-level postsecondary and workforce data that researchers can access via a data request form , or they can also make a data request that is covered under an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education, the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, and the Oklahoma Tax Commission.
Oregon	●	Deidentified pre-matched and aggregate postsecondary and workforce data from Oregon are available to external researchers. Requests are initiated via an email request submission, with additional steps determined based on the nature of the request. This process is not clearly documented online.
Pennsylvania	●	Researchers may request individual-level education records from the Department of Education. The Department's Institutional Review Board reviews these requests. Researchers may then match these education records to employment datasets. The Department of Education has published a research agenda .
Rhode Island	●	Rhode Island provides individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets to external researchers upon request. The process is clearly documented , and the state also publishes the reports from completed projects.
South Carolina	●	The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) manages the SLDS and works with state agencies and external researchers. The RFA provides information on requesting data and coordinates review and approvals with all agencies whose data are requested. Additionally, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce provides opportunities for researchers to request data .
South Dakota	●	South Dakota provides customized postsecondary employment and wage outcomes data upon request . The request and review process is not clearly documented.
Tennessee	●	Tennessee has individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets for third party researcher access. For K12, Higher Education, and Labor research requests, Tennessee has a single application (with addenda for K12 education) and access is provisioned through a secure portal. The request and approval process is not clearly documented.
Texas	●	The Texas Higher Education Coordination Board (THECB) provides secure access to longitudinal student and workforce data through its three Education Research Centers (ERCs). Researchers can apply to use deidentified data from K-12, postsecondary, and workforce systems, and the ERCs clearly document the request and approval process . In 2025, THECB began pursuing a virtual data enclave with the Coleridge Initiative to expand access and support national data linkages.

State	Rating	Description and Resource Links
Utah	●	Upon request , the Utah Data Research Center affords researchers access to individual-level, deidentified, linked education-to-employment. The system has published a research agenda to guide internal and external research products.
Vermont	●	No evidence was identified through the state's response or in Strada's research of the state demonstrating this element.
Virginia	●	The Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) provides external researchers with individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets via its online platform. VLDS has published the research agendas of its participating agencies and the system overall.
Washington	●	Washington provides researchers with deidentified, record-level matched education-to-employment data. Researchers can submit a request , and the request and review process is clearly documented. The state has also published a research agenda .
Washington, D.C.	●	The Office of Education Through Employment Pathways is developing a process for external researchers to request access to linked education-to-employment data for projects aligned with the office's research agenda . Researchers can currently request individual-level education data files via the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). OSSE responds to requests for individual or aggregate data on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with its Data Request Policy, through its Data Request Portal.
West Virginia	●	West Virginia provides researchers access to individual-level matched education-to-opportunity datasets, upon request .
Wisconsin	●	Wisconsin's Department of Public Instruction provides researchers with access to deidentified student-level data within postsecondary education. It is unclear if employment data that are pre-matched and linked data are available.
Wyoming	●	Wyoming has individual-level education-to-opportunity matched datasets across systems, but access is limited to internal state agency staff and legislatively mandated participating entities.

About Strada Education Foundation

We collaborate with learners, educators, employers, and policymakers across the U.S. to bring to life a postsecondary education and training ecosystem that provides equitable pathways to opportunity.

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