

**February 15, 2022**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 249**

**ESTABLISHING THE NORTH CAROLINA  
LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM GOVERNANCE BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina has been, and continues to be, a national leader in using longitudinal education data to inform decision-making; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina has three existing education longitudinal data systems: the Common Follow-Up System, NC SchoolWorks, and the Early Childhood Integrated Data System; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1992, the North Carolina Department of Commerce (“NCDOC”), the University of North Carolina System (“UNCSS”), the North Carolina Community College System (“NCCCS”), the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (“NCDPI”), the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (“NCDPS”), and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“NCDHHS”) formed the Common Follow-Up System (“CFS”), a collaborative data system to provide information on the educational and employment outcomes of participants in publicly supported educational, employment, and training programs; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, NCDPI, UNCSS, NCCCS, the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (“NCICU”), NCDHHS, and NCDOC began developing the North Carolina P-20W Statewide Longitudinal Data System, now called NC SchoolWorks; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, NCDHHS and NCDPI began developing the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (“ECIDS”), which includes data on early childhood education, health, and social services; and

**WHEREAS**, all three systems support data-informed decision-making to improve educational services and outcomes for North Carolinians; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Education Cabinet (“Education Cabinet”) is statutorily charged with developing and maintaining a strategic design for a continuum of education programs, from early childhood into the workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, Governor Cooper charged the Education Cabinet with increasing data sharing across the education and workforce continuum; and

**WHEREAS**, this charge led to the Education Cabinet working to strengthen the State’s existing education longitudinal data systems through a “system of systems” framework that would better leverage North Carolina’s education data resources to make data-driven decisions across the early childhood-to-education-to-workforce continuum; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the Government Data Analytics Center (“GDAC”), within the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (“NCDIT”), was directed by statute to “provide general oversight and direction” to the North Carolina Longitudinal Data System (“NCLDS”), among other duties; and

**WHEREAS**, GDAC, pursuant to Chapter 116E of the North Carolina General Statutes, adopted rules governing data sharing and data requests for the NCLDS; and

**WHEREAS**, GDAC is defined under 09 N.C. Admin. Code 06D. 0101 as the entity with the “authority to operate and oversee the NCLDS”; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2021, GDAC, NCDPI, UNCISO, NCCCS, NCDHHS, NCDOC, and NCICU (collectively known as “NCLDS data contributors”) entered into a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) governing how the NCLDS data contributors will share data through the NCLDS and acknowledging that the integrated “system of systems” framework will form the foundation of the NCLDS as it moves forward; and

**WHEREAS**, GDAC, in collaboration with the Education Cabinet, contracted with a team from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to conduct a study evaluating how to modernize and increase interoperability of the three existing education longitudinal data systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill team conducted over forty (40) interviews with stakeholders to understand their vision for an integrated state longitudinal data system and the opportunities and challenges it would present; and

**WHEREAS**, the team also interviewed longitudinal data users and managers from other states to learn about their systems and processes; and

**WHEREAS**, the study resulted in eight (8) recommendations to strengthen the existing education longitudinal data systems in order to link data from across agencies and over time to support evidence-based policy, performance management, and continuous improvement; and

**WHEREAS**, the third recommendation in the study is to establish NCLDS governance and organizational structures, including establishing an Executive Board comprised of senior leaders or their designees from each contributing agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the third recommendation also suggests hiring an NCLDS Executive Director to oversee the NCLDS implementation and operation and act as a liaison between the Executive Board and other NCLDS committees; and

**WHEREAS**, this Executive Order is intended to accomplish the above-referenced third recommendation from the study; and

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned intends that the North Carolina Longitudinal Data System Governance Board, established herein, work to provide guidance and advice to GDAC in its oversight of the NCLDS, consistent with applicable law and administrative rules, as well as the MOU entered into among the NCLDS data contributors; and

**WHEREAS**, no provision of this Executive Order is intended to conflict with North Carolina General Statute Chapter 116E or the rules governing the administration of the NCLDS; and

**WHEREAS**, NCDIT, NCDPI, UNCISO, NCCCS, NCICU, NCDHHS, and NCDOC support creation of the North Carolina Longitudinal Data System Governance Board as set forth herein; and

**WHEREAS**, Article III, Sections 1 and 5(4) of the North Carolina State Constitution vest the Governor with the executive power of the State, and obliges the Governor to take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED:**

## **Section 1. Establishment**

The North Carolina Longitudinal Data System Governance Board (“Board”) is hereby established.

## **Section 2. Membership**

1. The Board shall be comprised of the following members:
  - a. Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Information Technology
  - b. Superintendent of Public Instruction
  - c. President of the University of North Carolina System
  - d. President of the North Carolina Community College System
  - e. President of the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities
  - f. Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
  - g. Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce
  - h. Governor’s designee
2. Board members may appoint a designee to serve on the Board in their place. Designees are authorized to fully participate and vote during meetings.
3. The Secretary of NCDIT, or their designee, and the Governor’s designee shall serve as non-voting members of the Board.
4. Each Board member, or their designee, shall serve a one-year rotating term as Vice Chair followed by a one-year rotating term as Chair. The Governor, in consultation with the Board members, will appoint the Board’s initial Chair and Vice Chair.
5. The Board may appoint additional voting members as needed. New voting members shall be nominated by Board members during a regular meeting of the Board. A unanimous vote of the Board shall be required to approve the appointment of a new voting member.
6. The Board may appoint advisory members to serve as non-voting members of the Board. Advisory members shall be nominated by Board members during a regular meeting of the Board. A simple majority vote of the Board shall be sufficient to approve the appointment of advisory members.
7. The Board shall establish an advisory committee on data quality and an advisory committee on data governance to advise the Board. The Board shall name representatives of the NCLDS data contributors to serve on the committees.

## **Section 3. Meetings**

1. The Board shall meet at least two times per year and at other times at the call of the Chair.
2. The Board may adopt bylaws to govern its meetings and the conduct of its duties, as well as to govern the meetings and duties of the advisory committees.
3. A simple majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting the business of the Board.

## **Section 4. Duties**

1. The Board shall provide guidance and advice to GDAC on:
  - a. Setting NCLDS goals and priorities.
  - b. Establishing a policy and research agenda for the NCLDS.
  - c. Developing an implementation plan, including specific actions, timelines, and responsible parties, to phase in the recommendations of the NCLDS interoperability and modernization study.

- d. Developing and approving data governance, data security, and data privacy policies for the NCLDS.
  - e. Approving new data partners for the NCLDS.
  - f. Ensuring coordination among agencies and the NCLDS.
  - g. Reviewing research requirements, protocols, and guidelines regarding the approval of data requests from state and local agencies, the General Assembly, and the public.
2. The data governance and data quality committees shall advise the Board on developing appropriate data governance, data security, and data privacy policies for the NCLDS and shall identify and escalate data quality and data governance issues to the Board as necessary.

### **Section 5. Administration**

1. GDAC shall provide staff and administrative support services, including an Executive Director, for the Board and the advisory committees.
2. Members shall serve without compensation but may receive necessary travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with state law and the policies and rules of the Office of State Budget and Management.

### **Section 6. Duration**

This Executive Order is effective immediately. This Executive Order shall remain in effect until December 31, 2029, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-16.2(a), or until earlier rescinded or replaced.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 15th day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two.

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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**ATTEST:**

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Elaine F. Marshall  
Secretary of State