

# State Workforce and Education Alignment Project

## Mississippi

July 2015

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### Partners

Office of the Governor, Members of the Legislature, State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB), State Longitudinal Data System, State Data Clearinghouse, Community and Junior Colleges, and Mississippi Department of Employment Security

### Committees and Work Groups

SWIB Workforce Task Force, SWEAP Coordination Team

### Background

The National Strategic Planning & Analysis Research Center (NSPARC) at Mississippi State University serves as the state data clearinghouse. Mississippi has a long-established system for linking longitudinal data and has created web-based dashboards for education programs, known as “LifeTracks”. The state has also created a labor exchange data tool, “Mississippi Works” that can compare job seeker skills and skills required for job openings. Mississippi is the recipient of a Workforce Data Quality Initiative (WDQI) grant that will be used to create a pathway evaluator to identify skill strategies that lead to better labor market outcomes.

### Data Tool Objectives

**Dashboards:** Mississippi will develop a dashboard that uses common metrics to show participant outcomes by program and in the aggregate across workforce and education programs. Among the programs to be included are WIOA Titles I, II, III, and IV; Community College Career and Technical Education; Community College Workforce Training; TANF Employment and Training; and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T).

**Pathway Evaluators:** Mississippi will use a pathway evaluator approach to identify effective pathways for SNAP E&T participants and for adult education students.

**Supply and Demand Reports:** Mississippi will explore how the SWEAP supply and demand tool can supplement the state’s other efforts to compare supply and demand for skilled workers.

### Policy Goals and Objectives

Advance Mississippi’s commitment to use data tools as a vehicle to (1) improve workforce participation rates, (2) reduce the skill gap for middle-skill jobs, and (3) integrate and align education and workforce programs in the state.