

# Making Data Work in Montana



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**DQC**



We advocate to **change the role of data** to ensure that data works for *everyone* navigating their education and workforce journeys.

We envision a world where data is used to drive systemic change, economic mobility, and student success. To make this a reality, families, educators, communities, and policymakers must have the information they need to foster successful journeys through education and the workforce.

# Takeaways

- People deserve data because data matters .
- Privacy is an obligation, not an obstacle.
- Other states are delivering services; Montana can too!
- State legislators play a critical role in delivering data to drive improved outcomes.

# Data Matters

# Grace's Path to Success

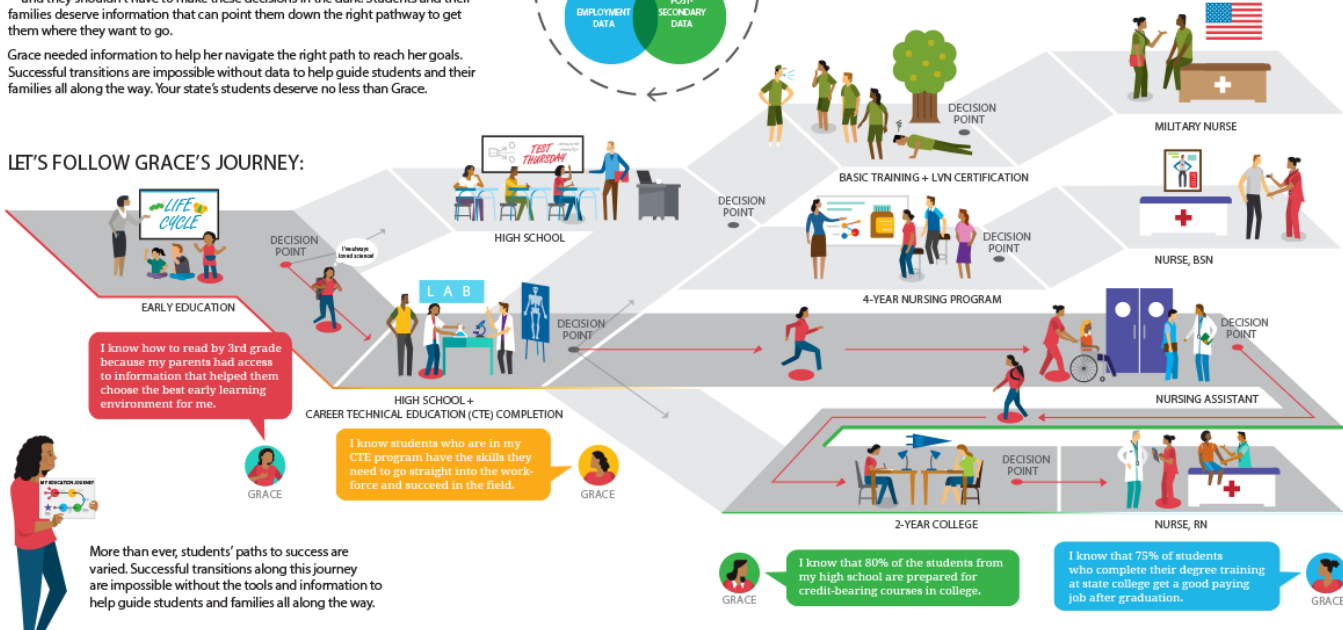
Information is critical to support student success all along the way.

Students' pathways to success are increasingly varied. But no matter the path, students must make choices that shape their future options and opportunities—and they shouldn't have to make these decisions in the dark. Students and their families deserve information that can point them down the right pathway to get them where they want to go.

Grace needed information to help her navigate the right path to reach her goals. Successful transitions are impossible without data to help guide students and their families all along the way. Your state's students deserve no less than Grace.




LET'S FOLLOW GRACE'S JOURNEY:




For guidance and best practice, see DQC's roadmaps to link, govern, and share data between early education, K-12, postsecondary, and the workforce.


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# The Need for Improved Access: Heard from Stakeholders

 **Superintendents** : 98% report they would be more confident in their abilities to make decisions for their district with better data *access* and 61% use data to make decisions about course offerings/curriculum aligned to postsecondary and workforce opportunities.

 **Principals** : 94% said they would feel more confident in their leadership decisions with better *access* to their students' postsecondary and workforce outcomes.

 **Parents** : 93% said that easier *access* to information would help them feel more confident about their ability to support their child's post-high school decisionmaking.

 **Students** : 80% report that they would feel more confident about the path they take after high school if they had better *access* to information.

*\*DQC 2021 and 2022 poll results in partnership with The Harris Poll*

# Privacy and Use Go Hand in Hand

As leaders like you design policies to ensure the availability of high - quality data for education decisionmaking , **protecting privacy must be a central consideration** .



# Principles to Keep in Mind

## Centering privacy in policy is:

- **About building trust.** Privacy is personal for people.
- **Part of effective data use.** Privacy and data use are not an either/or – privacy and data use go hand in hand.
- **Never “complete.”** Data practices are always evolving, requiring policymakers to regularly revisit and revise of privacy policies.
- **Nuanced.** You can’t adequately address privacy with broad brush strokes.

# Best Practices in Student Data Privacy Policies

State policymakers can center privacy by creating policies that require or promote the following:

- Promoting **the value of data** to build trust with communities and the public.
- Establishing **data governance** with clear processes to guide how data is used and protected.
- **Mandating transparency** for families and communities about how data is collected, used, and protected
- **Building capacity** and ensure that everyone with a role in protecting data has the training and support they need.
- **Regularly updating** privacy, security, and communications **policies** and practices to adhere to evolving practices
- **Structuring consent policies that align with data use,** limiting parental choice only to instances in which student data is used for non - educational purposes.

# States Leading the Way

# States Are Using Data to Support Individuals from High School to Career

## Keeping K-12 Students on Track to Success

- **North Carolina** used algebra readiness data to get more students on track to college.
- **Mississippi** used their test scores and changed reading instruction statewide .

## Success Doesn't Stop at Graduation

- **Idaho** uses link data to automatically admit qualified students into state colleges.

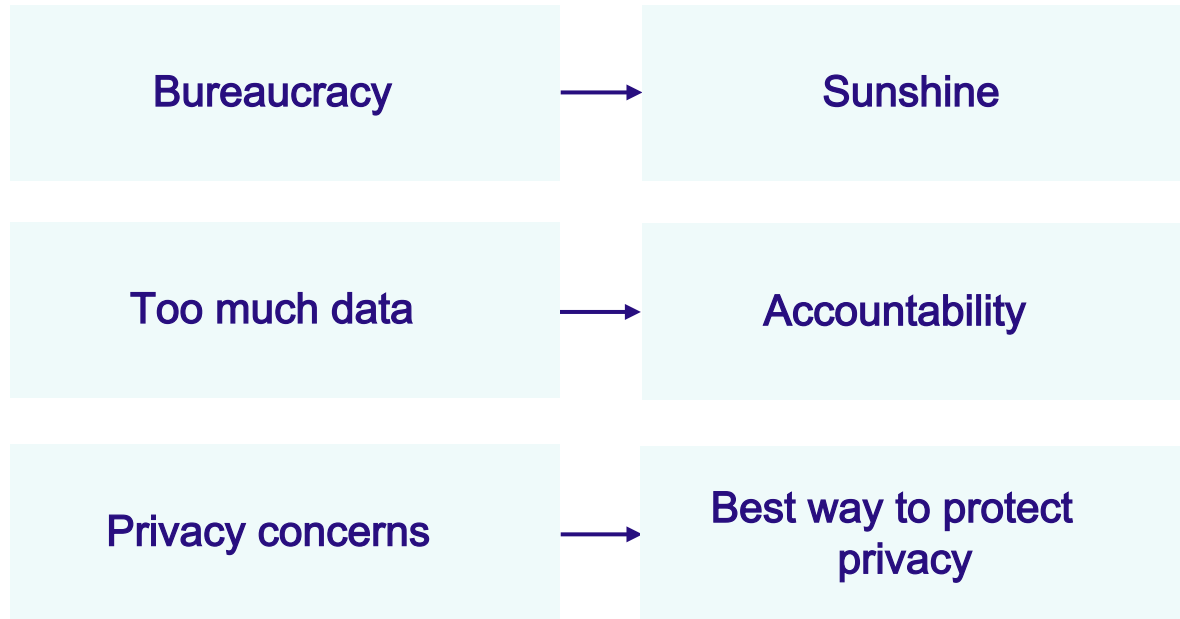
## Navigating the Path to Family - Sustaining Careers

- **Kentucky** uses data to help students see which CTE pathways lead to jobs in their area —and employers can see whether students in their region have the skills they need.
- **Alabama** and **North Dakota** are using linked data to help individuals match their skills and education to some of the largest employers in their state.

# Legislators Have a Critical Role

**Cross - agency data governance  
must be codified in state law in  
order for people across your state to  
reap the benefits of data over the  
long term.**

# Governance Changes the Conversation



# Features of Best Practice Data Governance Policies

Best practice data governance policies include:

- ✓ A formal body with **actual decisionmaking authority**
- ✓ A mandate for board membership, including **leadership - level representation**
- ✓ **Articulated responsibilities** for the board, including data protection
- ✓ A clear and transparent **vision and mission**



# Questions?

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