

## ERDC launches P20W Data System Study in 2023

In 2023, ERDC will launch a **P20W Data System Study** to assess whether we are using the most efficient technical processes and tools to collect, store, and link P20W data in our data environment. Since 2007, the Education Research & Data Center (ERDC) has collaborated with other state government agencies to compile student data from preschool into the workforce (P20W) for research and analysis. Collected over time, ERDC's statewide P20W data system is an asset that helps researchers, decisionmakers and the public understand the impacts of policies and programs on Washington's students. We are committed to ensuring that our P20W data system meets the needs of our state now and in the future.

### What is a "P20W data system study"?

A P20W data system study is an assessment of the processes and technical tools used to consume, organize, store, and prepare data for analysis. This work includes assessing the architecture of the data environment, the data model, and the software used for specific tasks. The goal is to identify changes to our technical processes and tools that will facilitate ERDC's ability to meet the need for our data services. Input from ERDC staff, data partners, and users will help create a picture of the current environment and a set of "use cases" that define the functional requirements for the future data environment which will lead to discovery any gaps that may exist. The study will also include a market scan and cost analysis to identify potential solutions. The final report will summarize insights and actionable recommendations to improve ERDC's P20W data environment.

### Why is this study happening?

ERDC's data environment was built almost 15 years ago, so this study is an opportunity to better understand if there are more efficient ways to structure our P20W data system. ERDC staff and data partners agree that now is the time to evaluate our data environment and plan for future improvements. This study is an extension of ERDC's process improvement initiative to remove inefficiencies from our data processes. To date, this initiative has focused on streamlining business and people processes. The P20W Data System Study will explore ERDC's technical processes and what enhancements (if any) could strengthen the capacity of our data environment.

### Who is conducting the study? How long will it take to complete the study?

ERDC has contracted with Gartner to conduct the P20W Data System Study. Gartner has decades of experience in the education industry and substantial expertise supporting agencies like ERDC. They will employ a collaborative approach facilitating input from key stakeholders combined with the infusion of their market-leading independent and objective research to assess ERDC's data systems. Gartner will complete the study in Spring 2023 and provide a final report and roadmap of recommendations to ERDC.

### How does ERDC's P20W Data System Study affect me and my work?

The P20W Data System Study does not change the work of ERDC's partners who contribute P20W data, and there is no direct impact on data users who are analyzing data from ERDC's P20W data environment. However, insight from ERDC data partners, data users, and staff is critical to completing the P20W Data System Study. In early 2023, ERDC and Gartner will organize a series of sessions and workshops to gather feedback about the P20W data environment from ERDC staff, representatives from data contributing partners in state agencies, a range of data users, and other parties interested in ERDC's P20W system.

### When will the results of the P20W Data System Study be shared? How will ERDC use the results?

The P20W Data System Study results will be shared in Summer 2023. ERDC will review the proposed solutions, cost-benefit analyses, and potential risks to determine what changes may strengthen the capacity of our P20W data system processes and our ability to meet future data needs.

**Questions about ERDC's P20W Data System Study?**  
**Contact us.**

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