



RILDS

RHODE ISLAND LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM

Rhode Island Longitudinal Data System Data Governance Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 – 2:00 PM

Meeting Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com>

This meeting was RECORDED

RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, Room 207
80 Washington St, Providence, RI, 02903

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

DCYF – Colleen **Caron**

DLT – Megan **Swindal**

DOA – Vincent **Flood**

ETSS – Scott **Gausland** (*delegate*)

OHHS – *Absent*

OMB – Kevin **Simpson**

RIDE – Mike **Waterman**

RILDS – Melanie **Bowdish**

RIOPC – Andrea **Spargo**

RISOS – Jessica **Cigno**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rebecca **Lebeau** (OHHS).

GUESTS:

Patrick McCormick (Quadrant Research), Mike Matkowski (OMB), Bonnie Rayta (RIOPC), Cheryl Muñoz (RIOPC), and Tom Pearce (RIOPC).

Melanie Bowdish, RILDS Director, called the meeting to order at 2:11 PM, welcomed attendees, and confirmed a quorum was present.

1. **WELCOME - Bowdish** introduced herself as the new Director of the RILDS Center, expressed enthusiasm for the role, and outlined recently completed projects and future priorities. She highlighted collaborations with state agencies including the RI Department of Health, RI Department of Environmental Management, RI Department of Education, the RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, as well as research requests.



Bowdish proposed initiating monthly meetings for the Data Governance Committee, starting in May, and stated she would follow up regarding scheduling. She announced an upcoming revised data request form for committee review, designed to refine workflows for handling state and researcher requests separately.

Bowdish noted that upcoming projects of focus were DCYF Data Stories, RIOPC Workforce Participant reporting, and the RI Talent Dashboard. Bowdish emphasized the importance of having data readily available in RILDS to streamline request fulfillment.

2. **VOTE on Adoption of Meeting Minutes** - **Bowdish** called for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2024, meeting as presented without modification. **Gausland** motioned, **Swindal** seconded, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

IN FAVOR: Bowdish, Caron, Cigna, Flood, Gausland, Simpson, Spargo, Swindal

OPPOSED: None

ABSTENTIONS: Waterman

ABSENT: Lebeau

3. DISCUSSION of & VOTE on Data Requests

i. OMB – Direct Certification Linkage

Bowdish introduced the request, emphasizing its importance for fiscal-year budgeting and improving identity resolution in student eligibility data. She explained that each year RIDE and DHS conduct an education-aid cost estimate based on the number of students who are eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch (FRPL) using data collected by DHS on a student's status as a beneficiary of SNAP and TANF support. Per this request, RILDS has worked with DHS and RIDE to attain agreements and share data to conduct a time-sensitive secondary linkage to improve identity resolution within the dataset. RILDS will provide individual level identified data back to RIDE for final enrollment and financial projections. Bowdish noted that this request came from OMB, and Kevin Simpson was present to represent the requesting party.

Gausland emphasized support for the request, noting it as a State priority and the first phase in the development of the State's Integrated Data System (IDS).



Bowdish seconded the importance of work in the State and noted an opportunity for new relationships with DHS and for learning more about improving identity resolution.

Cigna expressed excitement about work and asked for clarity on how RILDS service hours are distributed. She also asked for additional information about how data would be delivered back to OMB.

Bowdish shared how service hours at the RILDS had worked previously. She explained that the RILDS Center planned to link data and return a matched and unmatched file to the RI Department of Education (RIDE), and not directly to OMB. **Bowdish** asked for confirmation from **Simpson**.

Simpson confirmed that OMB expected an identical linkage process, he noted importance of the potential impact on financial investments to school districts, and thanked RILDS team for smoothness of process.

Bowdish addressed Cigna's previous question about scope of work and noted the need to determine clear consensus on the current balance of service hours.

Swindal asked about the disposition of the DHS data following this project and whether DHS might consider repeating the process.

Bowdish stated that RILDS would engage with DHS after reviewing the results to explore a potential continuation, though data sharing would need to be renegotiated with both DHS and RIDE, as this remains a one-time project for now.

Waterman noted that this monthly activity primarily supports the funding formula and free and reduced-priced lunch, clarifying that while RIDE will continue the process with DHS, this serves as a proof of concept to determine if any students are being overlooked.

Bowdish called for a motion to approve the Direct Certification Linkage request. Waterman motioned, Swindal seconded, and the Data Contributing Agencies unanimously approved.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Caron, Cigna, Spargo, Swindal, Waterman

VOTING IN OPPOSITION: None

ABSTENTION: None

ABSENT: None



ii. RIOPC - Westerly Education Center Participant Employment Outcomes

Bowdish introduced the RIOPC Employment Outcomes request, acknowledging that RIOPC staff members Bonnie Rayta, Cheryl Muñoz, and Tom Pearce were present to answer questions.

Rayta shared that this reporting is a grant requirement and highlighted the need for streamlined, accurate data collection. She also expressed appreciation for the RILDS team's efforts in handling the request.

Bowdish called for a motion to approve the Westerly Education Center Participant Employment Outcomes request. Caron motioned, Swindal seconded, and the Data Contributing Agencies unanimously approved.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Caron, Cigna, Spargo, Swindal, Waterman

VOTING IN OPPOSITION: None

ABSTENTION: None

ABSENT: None

iii. DCYF – Foster Youth Educational Outcomes Update

Bowdish introduced the request and acknowledged Caron in attendance to represent the request.

Bowdish called for a motion to approve the Foster Youth Educational Outcomes Update request. The Foster Youth Educational Outcomes Update request was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Data Contributing Agencies.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Caron, Cigna, Spargo, Swindal, Waterman

VOTING IN OPPOSITION: None

ABSTENTION: None

ABSENT: None

iv. Quadrant Research– Arts Education

Bowdish introduced the request, acknowledging the presence of the requestor, Patrick McCormick.

Spargo requested clarification on the student cohort and the specific National Student



Clearinghouse Data required.

Swindal asked about additional datasets from RIDE. **Bowdish** clarified that the requestor is asking for additional data from RIDE than in their previously approved request but noted that these data are in the RILDS database.

Bowdish called for a motion to approve the Quadrant Research Arts Education updated request. The Quadrant Research Arts Education updated request was motioned, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Data Contributing Agencies.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Caron, Cigna, Spargo, Swindal, Waterman

VOTING IN OPPOSITION: None

ABSTENTION: None

ABSENT: None

- v. National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) – Teacher Certification

Bowdish announced that this request was withdrawn following the publication of the agenda and called for a motion to formally remove it from the record. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Data Governance Committee.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Bowdish called for a motion to adjourn. Caron motioned, Gausland seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved to adjourn.

With no further business, the April 9, 2025, RILDS Data Governance Committee meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM EST.