

How to Make the Most of Your District Data: Linking to the ERC

Dan O'Brien, Director

Jim Parsons, Assistant Director

UT Dallas Education Research Center

www.texasschoolsproject.org

In October, we Imagined. . .

- Your own district's data, plus
- Data from all Texas districts, plus
- Data from colleges & universities, plus
- Data from other sources, plus
- Other data You want to add.

. . . ALL at the INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

From October, please recall. . . Available ERC Data

- PEIMS – All Collections
 - Student, Staff, Financial, Organization Records
- Student Assessment
 - TAAS, TAKS, and **New** TELPAS (*SDAA soon*)
- SBEC – Teacher Certification Data
- THECB – Texas Public Higher Ed Data
- TWC – **Texas Workforce Commission New**
- **Pending Data Additions** (*getting closer!*)
 - SAT/ACT, AP/IB, NSC, and others

From October, please recall. . . ERC endorsement from USDE - FPCO

“In general, the **TEA and THECB** appear to have developed **a model approach** for the conduct of **independent education research** in accordance with **FERPA requirements**. It also appears that ERC data will prove **more valuable to researchers** than what is available under current practices because **longitudinal student information** can be made **available to the ERCs** without having to address **confidentiality issues** associated with **small data cells**.

As such, we anticipate that the **ERC approach** will become the **preferred method** for conducting **longitudinal educational research** with **State education data**.”

Source: Letter from the Family Policy Compliance Office

From October, please recall. . . Advantages of a Statewide Consortium

- Statewide data already available
- FERPA compliance built in
- Remote data access for consortium researchers
- Computational and research support for consortium projects
- Security for District data

Now, in February, we expand on what
we imagined in October...

Other data *YOU* want to add

Other Data: 7 Questions

- Why would you want to link your data with ERC data?
- What other data do you have?
- What ERC data would you like to link?
- How could you do it?
- What about safety, security, and confidentiality?
- What about FERPA?
- What are the next steps?

Other Data: Questions for You

At your tables, for 5 minutes, please buzz. . .

- Why would you want to link your data with ERC data?
- What other data do you have?
- What ERC data would you like to link?

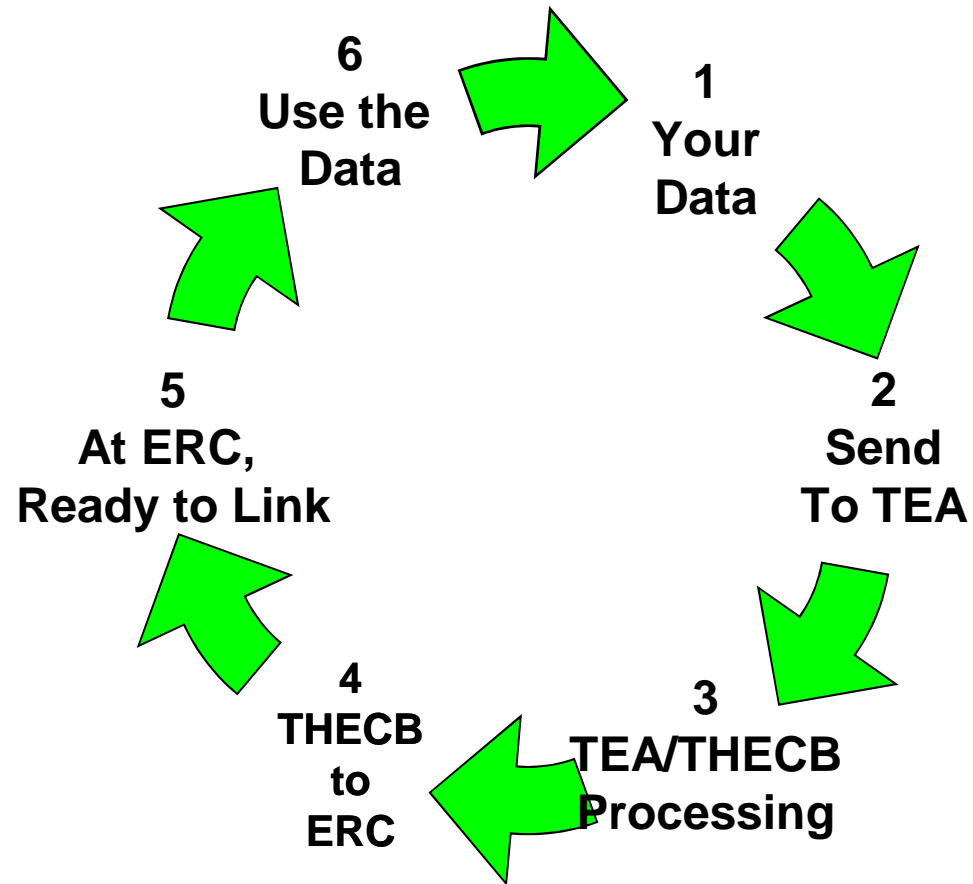
Your Responses

- What other data do you have?
- What ERC data would you like to link?
- Why would you want to link your data with ERC data?

Other Data: Questions for the ERC

- How could you do it?
- What about safety, security, and confidentiality?
- What about FERPA?
- What are the next steps?

How to Link Your Data? (Simplified)



Step Zero: The Project

- Idea for a Research Project
- Develop Project Proposal
- Send Proposal to ERC
- Present Proposal to ERC Joint Advisory Board
(JAB)
- JAB Approves Proposal

Step 1: Your Data

- Permission
 - Internal District Approvals
 - Data Sharing Agreement
- Preparation
 - Extract from District Data Systems
 - Format for Processing at TEA

Step 2: Send to TEA

- Secure Transmission
 - Secure, encrypted FTP or Web Tool
 - Password-protected, encrypted CD/DVD
 - “Sneaker-net”

Step 3: TEA/THECB Processing

- Making Your Data meet DOE-Approved and State-mandated Form
 - From *State ID* to *PID Replacement* and/or *SSN Replacement ID*
 - What this means and how it is done
 - *DOB* to *Age on September 1st*
 - If Name is included in file for matching, then names are removed

Step 4: THECB to ERC

➤ Secure FTP Transfer

Step 5: At ERC, Ready to Link

- House data in secure server
- Check transferred text file for quality
- Read text file into desired statistical software
 - STATA, SAS, SPSS
- Check stat file for quality
- Create directory for researcher access

Step 6: Use the Data

- Data Access ONLY at Approved ERC sites
 - UT Dallas TSP/ERC Office
 - TSP at Austin (opens in March)
 - Other approved remote sites
 - Austin: Dana Center, Ray Marshall Center
 - UTSA
- Potential future sites
 - Edvance • REL-SW • TCSR
 - University of Houston

Next Steps

- Project Ideas
- Project Proposal
- Permissions, Procedures, and Processes
 - <http://www.texasschoolsproject.org>
 - Navigate to “Data & Resources” for
 - Data Holdings and Documentation
 - Access, including Proposal Specs and JAB Approval Process
 - IT Resources
 - FERPA Information
 - Draft Data Sharing Agreement (in your packet)

The Future

***As we said in October,
your needs will help shape our future.***

Texas Schools Project - UT Dallas ERC

www.texasschoolsproject.org

tsp@utdallas.edu

jparsons@utdallas.edu