



**VIRGINIA CRIMINAL
SENTENCING COMMISSION**

Invitation to Participate in the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS)

June 7, 2021



Purpose of the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS)



<http://vlds.virginia.gov/about-vlds>

- **VLDS is a consortium of state agencies who have agreed to share data among each other for research purposes, as well as to provide de-identified data to external researchers.**
 - **VLDS was initially funded by the US Department of Education in 2010.**
 - **VLDS went live in 2013.**
- **VLDS is a partnership that allows the matching of individual records across agencies to build longitudinal datasets that have been de-identified and provided to researchers covered under contracts and Restricted Use Data Agreements to conduct policy relevant research.**

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- **Through VLDS, researchers are able to access data from the Department of Social Services, (SNAP, TANF, Foster Care, Medicaid), VDOE (K12 records back to 2004 and Adult Education), Juvenile Justice, Children's Services, VCCS workforce, DARS, DBVI, VDHP, and ultimately, the Department of Health.**
- **There is interest in including Sentencing Commission data with the education, wage, benefits, and other data sources already in VLDS.**

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- **Tod Massa, Director of Policy Analytics at the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) and the VLDS, has extended an invitation to the Sentencing Commission to join as a VLDS partner.**
- **In becoming a VLDS partner, the Commission would have a seat on the Data Governance Council, which meets monthly.**
 - **The Council operates based on unanimous decision model based on the principle: “Can my agency live with this?”**
- **If the Commission does not wish to join VLDS formally but approves the sharing of annual data, VLDS will make the data available to the VLDS research community.**



About VLDS

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The Virginia Longitudinal Data System is a powerful tool for Virginia's future, giving the Commonwealth an unprecedented and cost-effective tool for extracting and analyzing insightful education and workforce development data within a secure environment.



<http://vlds.virginia.gov/>



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Questions and Discussion



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