



Moving from Local to Regional Data-Driven Decisionmaking for Rural Career Pathways Collaboratives

Discussion and Reflection Guide

Purpose

This guide is designed to help rural cross-sector regional partners reflect and discuss the strategies to share and use data as presented in the companion video.

Audience

Rural education, workforce, government, and community partners who collaborate to use data to develop regional education and career pathways.

Video Overview

This 20-minute video has three segments: Building a Case, Paving the Way, and Taking Action. Each segment provides tips and resources for leaders of regional cross-sector career pathway partnerships as they collaborate to improve data gathering, sharing, and use.

Discussion Guide

The discussion questions below are organized by the three segments of data sharing and use for cross-sector collaboration around regional career pathways programs. Refer to the other resources associated with this video (Considerations for MOUs and DSAs, Data for Action) to support your discussion.

The video will be useful to individuals (e.g., partnership leaders) or teams from cross-sector collaboratives that work on regional career pathways programs. Whether working individually or in a team, it is recommended that participants watch the full video prior to responding to the reflection questions for each segment. For ease of use, the questions listed below are associated with specific points discussed in the video, as noted below with timestamps.

Building a Case (04:57)

1. In what ways can each of your potential partners benefit from collaborating? How can the purpose and benefits of collaboration be shared with potential partners to encourage their engagement?
2. What are the career pathways-related goals that are shared by all potential partners?

Paving the Way: From Local to Regional Orientation (07:46)

3. In what ways would a regional structure that is separate from, but includes each partner institution, benefit each partner? How would it benefit the region as a whole?
4. Where are our current strengths in exhibiting a regional orientation? What steps can we take so each partner develops and strengthens a regional (rather than local/institutional) mindset?

Paving the Way: Cultivate Trust and Strengthen Relationships (10:36)

5. What relationships already exist between and among potential partners and what is the history and nature of the relationships?



6. What key concerns around collecting, storing, analyzing, and securing data should be discussed and clarified with partners?

Taking Action: Data Collection (11:45)

7. What are the key questions guiding your shared regional pathways work?
8. What data are needed to answer these questions, and what data already exist?
9. How will the raw data be assembled? Who will be responsible for this work?

Taking Action: Data Sharing (14:01)

10. In what ways do your data sharing agreements and MOUs outline each partner's responsibilities and the agreed-upon guidelines for collecting, sharing, and storing data?

Taking Action: Data Use for Decisionmaking (14:39)

11. In your collaborative, what is your plan to strengthen the way that you regularly review, discuss, and use data to inform regional career pathways programs?
12. With whom will the decisions based on data/findings be shared, in what form, and through which modalities?