# A framework for considering SPDG data work

**People, Process and Systems**

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Why Data Matters

- Demonstrate impact on **outcomes for children with disabilities**
- Monitor implementation of professional development and systems change
- Inform **continuous improvement** and scaling decisions
- Meet federal reporting and performance requirements
- Tell a clear story to legislators, families, and stakeholders
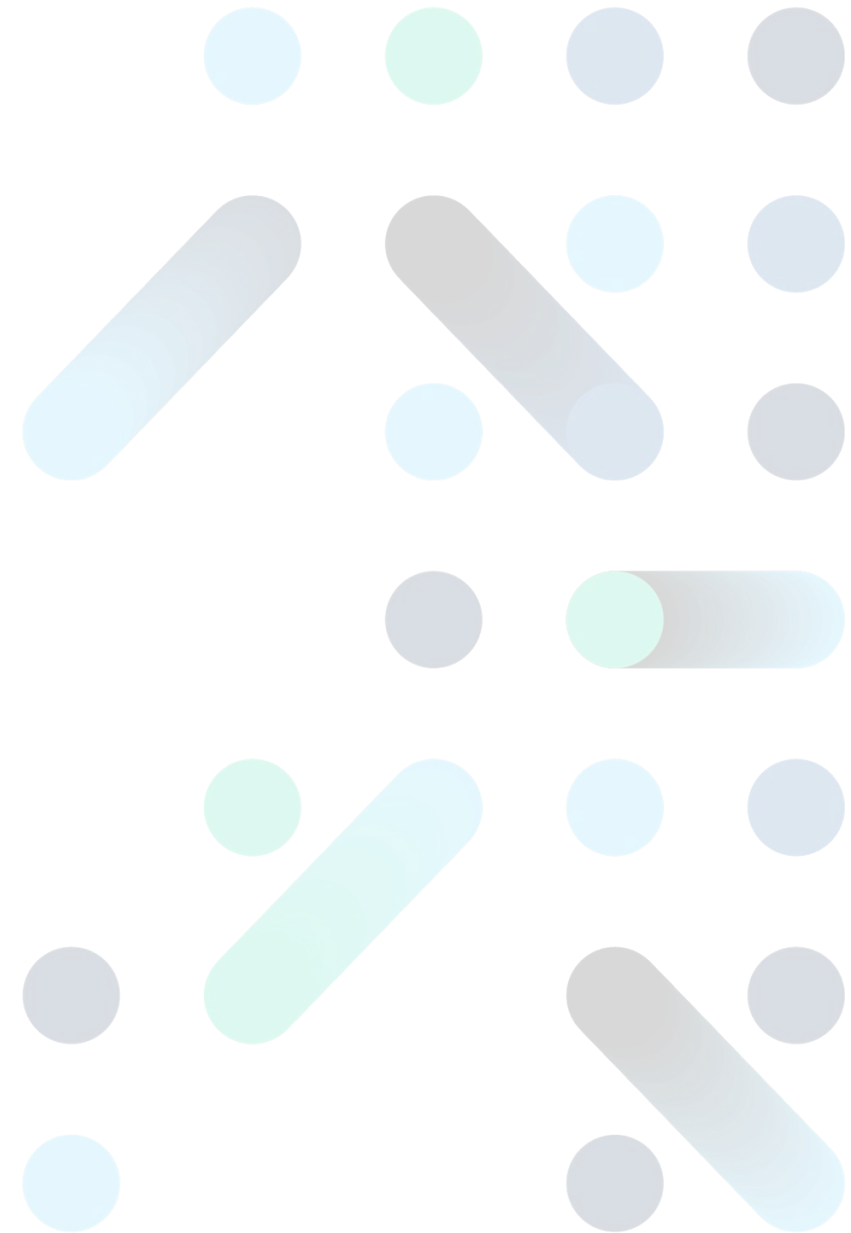
A Framework for SPDG work

Three intertwined dimensions:

- **People** – Roles, skills, culture, and cross-agency relationships

- **Process** – Governance, workflows, documentation, and decision rules

- **Systems** – Technology, standards, and integration
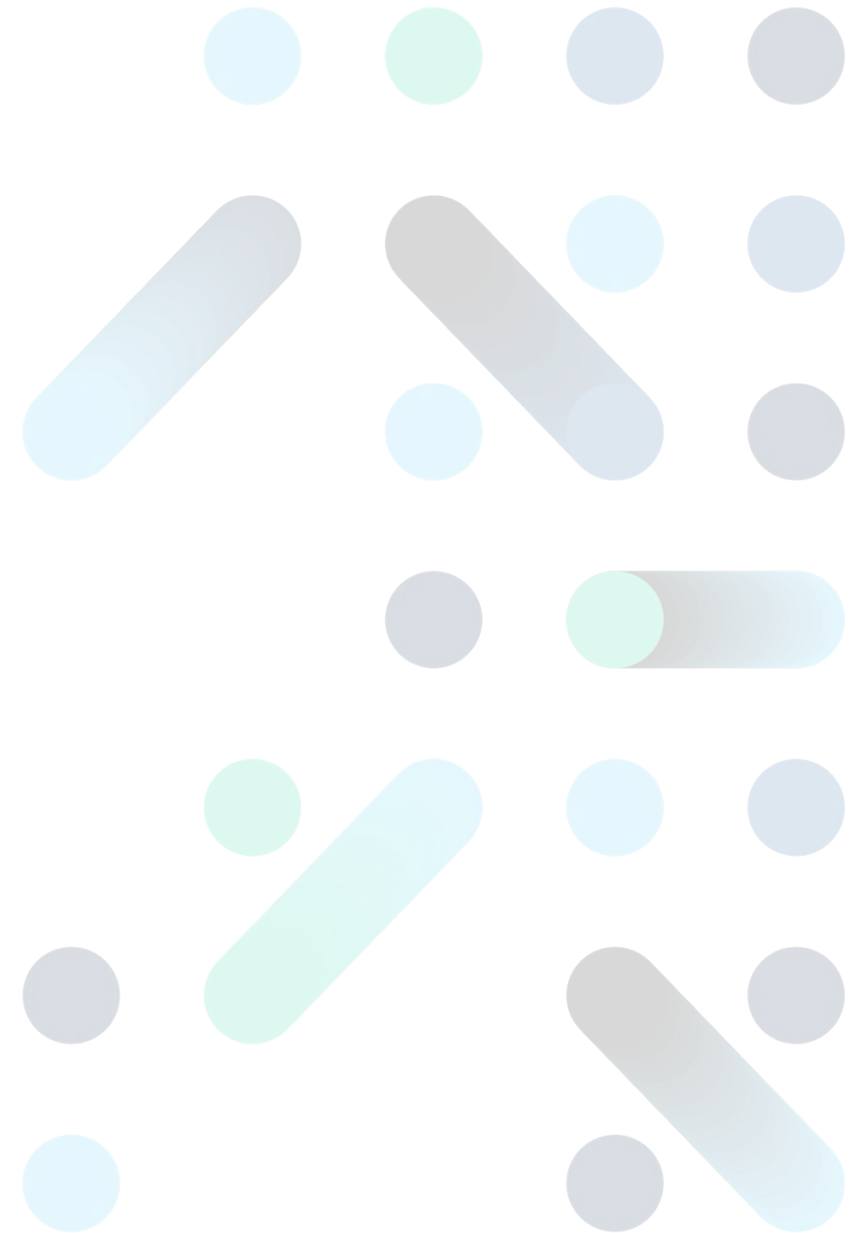
People: Roles & Capacity for SPDG Data

Who touches SPDG data?
- SPDG project director and coordinators
- SEA program staff (special education, early intervention, transition)
- SEA data office / SLDS team
- LEA coordinators, IHE faculty, parent center staff

Common challenges:
- "Data is someone else's job" mindset
- Limited time and analytic capacity at program level
- Turnover among key staff and contractors

SPDG Opportunities:
- Clear role definitions (data stewards, data owners, data users)
- Targeted PD on data literacy and use for program staff

Process: Data Governance

Data governance - overall management of data, including availability, usability, integrity, quality, and security, and how organizations make decisions about their collective information assets

Governance is the definition of:
- How decisions are made about data
- Committees, groups or teams that establish and follow policies and workflows

SPDG Opportunities:
- Clarify who decides *what* gets collected, *how* it's defined, and *how* it's shared
- Align governance with existing SEA / SLDS structures where possible

Process: Data Management Lifecycle

Plan – Identify questions and indicators aligned to SPDG logic model

Define – Select standardized data elements, codes, and business rules (CEDS where possible)

Collect – Integrate with existing SEA / SLDS collections where feasible

Store & Integrate – Use secure, governed repositories (SLDS, data warehouse, or equivalent)

Analyze & Report – Use tools/dashboards tailored to program users

Act & Refine – Feed findings back into SPDG strategies and PD design

SPDG Opportunity – engage SEA colleagues in the data management lifecycle

Systems: Leveraging Existing Effort - SLDS

SLDS grants have helped states build cross-agency, P-20W longitudinal systems that support data sharing and use
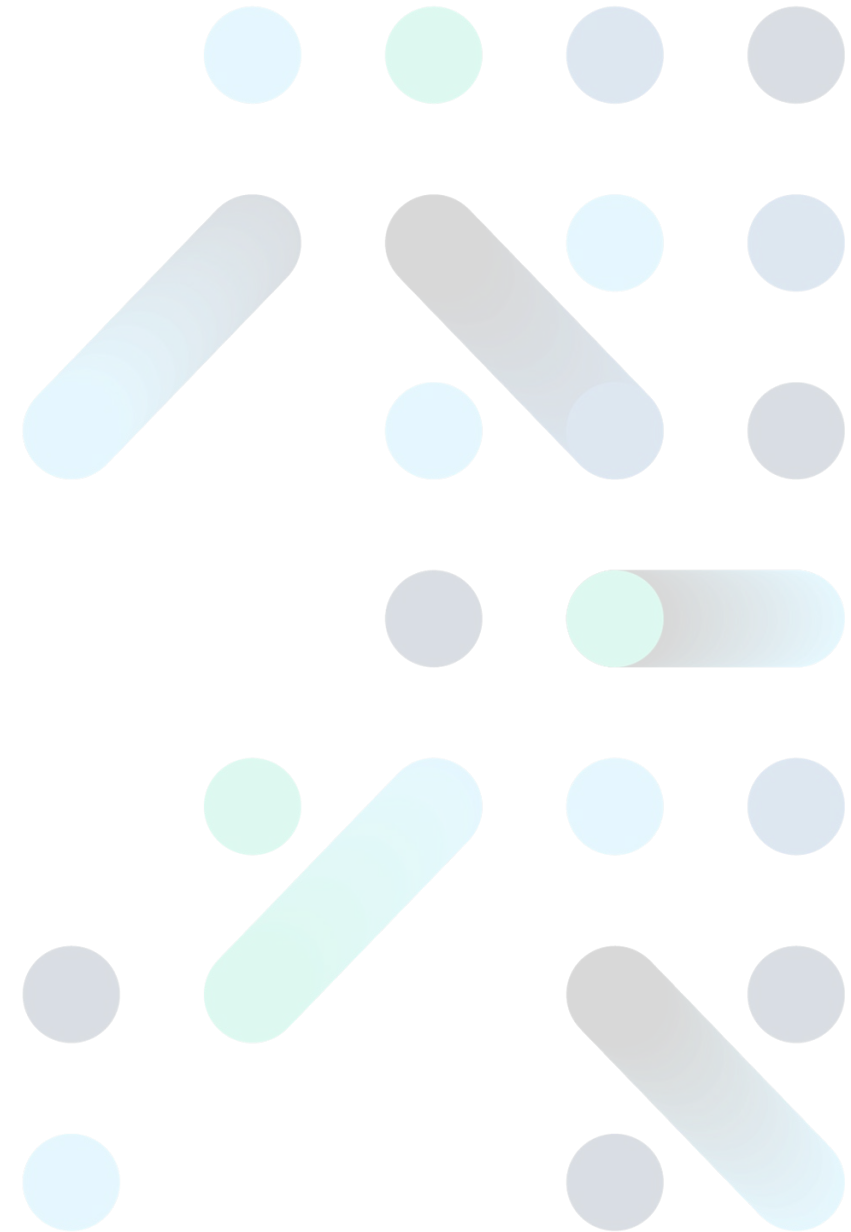
For SPDG, SLDS can:
Provide **longitudinal student results** (achievement, graduation, post-school outcomes)
Link **educator credentials / assignments** to student outcomes

SPDG Opportunities:
- Map SPDG KPIs to existing SLDS elements
- Build SPDG data mart or subject area within SLDS

System: Leveraging Existing Efforts - CEDS

CEDS (Common Education Data Standards) provides:
- A common vocabulary of education data elements
- Data models that reflect P-20W relationships
- Tools like **CEDS Align** and **CEDS Connect** for mapping elements and documenting calculations

SPDG Opportunities:
- Easier integration with SLDS and other SEA systems
- Better comparability across LEAs and partners
- Reuse of existing mappings and best practices (e.g., from other states' data dictionaries)

People, Process and System – A simple maturity model

People
- *Emerging:* Data work handled by a single "data person"; limited program staff engagement
- *Developing:* Defined SPDG data roles; some cross-team collaboration and training
- *Sustaining:* Data culture embedded in SPDG; regular cross-agency data reviews

Process
- *Emerging:* Ad-hoc collections and reports
- *Developing:* Documented data elements, basic governance meetings, draft policies
- *Sustaining:* Integrated with SEA/SLDS governance; formal data standards and QA

Systems
- *Emerging:* Stand-alone spreadsheets / vendor tools
- *Developing:* Initial connections to SLDS; partial use of CEDS
- *Sustaining:* SPDG data fully integrated in state data ecosystem (SLDS, CEDS, dashboards)

Thanks!

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