



STRATEGIC DATA PROJECT



Extending the Postsecondary Data Partnership to Understand New Patterns of Student Success

Many colleges now offer programs and credentials to help students traditionally underserved by higher education to succeed in the workforce. We need to know more about how these pathways improve retention, ensure workforce readiness, and promote success for *all* students.

To enable institutions to better understand patterns in students' outcomes, the **Strategic Data Project (SDP)**, in collaboration with [ResearchEd](#), has launched a free tool for institutions participating in the Postsecondary Data Partnership (PDP).

The **SDP PDP Extension** enhances the PDP by allowing institutions to simplify and automate the analysis of PDP data to gain additional insights on college student pathways through college programs. Using this code and guidance, institutions will be able to utilize their PDP Analysis-Ready data files to perform new analyses. The toolkit will guide users through the analysis and creation of custom reports with simple, engaging visuals to help institutions track student progression towards credentials and degrees and illuminate the routes they take to get there. The resource includes options to disaggregate based on student characteristics of interest. To access the tool, visit OpenSDP at https://github.com/OpenSDP/sdp_cte_pdp_extension.

WHAT IS THE POSTSECONDARY DATA PARTNERSHIP (PDP)?

The PDP is a national effort to help postsecondary institutions understand student academic progress and success through data collection facilitated by the National Student Clearinghouse®. Participants receive analysis-ready files and dashboards detailing key performance indicators, including credit accumulation, gateway course completion, retention, persistence, and credentials. The PDP also provides data on part-time and transfer-in students, detailed demographics, and course information to identify support needs and track academic progress.

This tool was prepared with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The tool was prepared by Beatrice Leydier, Senior Research Fellow at ResearchEd, with feedback and guidance from Rachel Rush-Marlowe, Executive Director of ResearchEd; Ayana Tapper, Policy Associate at ResearchEd; and Rachel Worsham, Senior Research Analyst at the Center on Education and Policy Research.



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