

## GEER II

### *Investments to Bolster Data Systems*

#### Overview and Connection to Attainment

As North Carolina looks to quantify learning loss and disruption, and to track long-term impacts for subgroups, a more robust longitudinal data system would help to support these objectives. The state could consider dedicating ESSER II state reserve funds or GEER II funds to enhance and strengthen the multi-agency longitudinal data work underway.

#### Potential Uses of Funds

**10. State leaders could use GEER II funding for the following purposes related to strengthening the state's data systems:**

- Address immediate needs, including upgrading systems and making data collection adjustments to respond to [new data requirements](#) from the federal government, inform learning recovery, and providing support to districts and schools.
- Modernize outdated data source systems.
- Invest in staff capacity to manage and use data.
- [Improve credential transparency](#), connecting it to the state data infrastructure.
- Further connect data systems so they can be used to provide insights to address complex policy challenges, inside and outside of education.
- Improve state to district data linkages.
- Provide funds directly to districts for the modernization of their data systems and tools.
- Safeguard data, ensuring that privacy and security protections are up to date and implemented with fidelity.

#### State Examples

[Texas](#) is spending \$15 million of GEER funding “for strategic education and workforce data infrastructure to provide timely, actionable intelligence to students, institutions, employers, and policymakers; scale and expand existing technologies and tools that support college and career advising; and help students stay on track to earn high-value credentials.”

Three states (Michigan, New Jersey, and Colorado) were awarded philanthropic funding from [Data for the American Dream](#) to support using state longitudinal data systems to address **vulnerable worker** information and decision-making as they navigate education, credentials, and labor markets.

#### Local/Regional Examples

Using [postsecondary data at the K-12 level](#) is valuable to help increase students' chances at postsecondary success. Houston ISD [follows trends](#) of students' postsecondary outcomes to better understand what happens to students when they leave their district and understand how well they are preparing them for success in postsecondary opportunities. A focus on equity helps them understand gaps for various student demographics.