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The How and What Of CEDARS Data Mining

By [LadyLiberty1885 - A.P. Dillon](#) in [Blog](#) on June 2, 2013

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Parents are witnessing their children being turned into guinea pigs by an untested set of standards by teachers who are just as frustrated with the lack of training and teaching latitude. Billed as a 'State-led' initiative promoting the highest standards and reform, parents dealing with Common Core are [learning first hand](#) what a load of bunk that is.

As more parents get up to speed on Common Core and in North Carolina are getting more acquainted with [CEDARS](#), more questions about data mining have cropped up. Parents are asking what data is being collected and how it is being transferred.

Here is what we know right now, relative to North Carolina:

THE HOW

In order to fully implement Common Core Standards and receive the [ARRA funding](#), states had to agree to set up an SLDS (State Longitudinal Data System). North Carolina was no exception and the NC Department of Instruction created CEDARS – Common Education Data Analysis and Reporting System. The purpose of NC's [SLDS](#):

Provides grants to states to design, develop, and implement statewide P-20 longitudinal data systems to capture, analyze, and use student data from preschool to high school, college, and the workforce.

- More detail on [CEDARS](#) here.
- Read the application for ARRA funds for CEDARS [here](#).

Also recently posted here on the blog is [an introduction](#) to how Arne Duncan and the Department of Education created a path to your more of your child's data by altering FERPA regulations. For a more in depth description, I recommend watching: [Interview – Data Collection With Jenni White of Oklahoma R.O.P.E.](#)


THE WHAT

CEDARS collects data from multiple **existing** sources. That's right, some of these items are already tracked on your child in various databases in North Carolina.

Examples of the type of data collected are below:

CEDARS: Data Sources		
DPI Data System/Source		
SNA	Homeless	Dropout
NCWISE	Immigrant	DBS Internal and External
LIC / SAL	LEP	AMTR
CECAS	Neglected and Delinquent	More at Four
Accountability	SES / Choice	PPAR
MIS2000	Title I / TAS	PMR Data
CTE	USDDC	MFR/AFR
Child Nutrition / FRL		

"Data/metadata dictionary" will provide clear definitions of all data elements in the repository



Public Schools of North Carolina

This list is by no means everything being tracked. I am still running down quite a bit more and will update when I have more details.

These data points are then sent to the Department of Education on a scheduled basis, where they are collated into a larger compilation as part of the [National Education Data Model](#) (NEDM)– of [400 data points](#). Yes, 400.

Items included that should disturb even the biggest skeptic include:

- Father's education level
- Mother's education level
- Family income range
- Family Obligations
- Social Security Number
- Religious Affiliation

The NEDM is one of four federal sites involved in the invasion of our children's privacy by having to submit personal information. The other three are: [EdFacts Exchange](#), [Common Education Data Standards](#) and [Data Quality Campaign](#).

By the way, it appears that these data sets at NEDM were altered and moved at some point. [Red State](#) points out the original links [Michelle Malkin](#) published (below) have gone poof:

The National Education Data Model, available online at <http://nces.sifinfo.org/datamodel/eiebrowser/techview.aspx?instance=studentElementarySecondary>, lists hundreds of data points considered indispensable to the nationalized student tracking racket. These include:

- “Bus Stop Arrival Time” and “Bus Stop Description.”*
- “Dwelling arrangement.”*
- “Diseases, Illnesses and Other Health Conditions.”*
- “Religious Affiliation.”*
- “Telephone Number Type” and “Telephone Status.”*

Home-schoolers and religious families that reject traditional government education would be tracked. [Original NEDM data points](#) included hair color, eye color, weight, blood types and even dental status.

Did you catch that last paragraph? Hair color? Blood type? Those data sets are not on the new locations, but it's a good bet they still exist. It even included [voting status](#):

NEDM has hundreds of ‘attributes’ characterizing students including, ‘health care plan’, ‘insurance coverage’, ‘family income range’, ‘religious affiliation’ and ‘voting status’

If you really want to make your brain hurt, check out the list at [Common Education Data Standards](#) where data points have subdivisions, labels and hierarchies that pinpoint specifics about each child. It is worth noting that teachers are also being tracked.

At Data Quality Campaign, you can see by state what their progress is in mining your child's data with an [interactive map](#). Be sure to scroll down after clicking on your state and see what the “Action” items are defined as. Just click on the “Action” number to see the description. North Carolina has fulfilled 8 of the [10 Actions](#) listed.

THE UNASKED QUESTION: WHY

All of these items mentioned are tracking your child from pre-k through college and even beyond should they enter into state or federal public service/employment. None of these data points are the business of the Department of Education nor the NC DPI, which leads us to the unasked question – **why collect such items?**

What do these data sets have to do with teaching? How is tracking a family's general income range help a student understand algebra, history or any other subject? What does one's religious affiliation have to do with learning or education in general?

All of this information is available to anyone with access, [poll pushers and statistics trackers](#) and includes groups who stand to [profit](#). When you boil it down, this is a database of our citizens. As

[Conservative Teachers for America](#) states it bluntly:

The [tests are to be the vehicle](#) for the nationwide student data collection, both [academic and nonacademic](#).

High standards, low standards — that makes little difference. The underbelly of Common Core is the collection of data on millions of children. The questions remain, but there is only one answer: **Stop Common Core**.

This article was posted in [Blog](#) by [LadyLiberty1885 - A.P. Dillon](#) on June 2, 2013 at 9:04 am. [Edit](#)

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