

**FACT SHEET:**  
**UNLOCKING THE POWER OF EDUCATION DATA FOR ALL AMERICANS**



**Office of Science and Technology Policy**  
**Executive Office of the President**

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Today, Education Secretary Arne Duncan celebrated a number of new and expanded public- and private-sector commitments that promise to empower American students and families with the tools and information they need to make optimal choices as they pursue their educational goals.

**ADMINISTRATION COMMITMENTS**

**U.S. Department of Education**

**Education.data.gov:** The Department of Education announced the launch of [education.data.gov](http://education.data.gov) - the site serves as a central guide for education data resources including high-value data sets, data visualization tools, resources for the classroom, applications created from open data and more. These datasets have been gathered from various agencies to provide detailed information on the state of education on all levels.

**FSA “MyData Button”:** The Department of Education announced that, by this summer, FSA will add a "MyData" download button to allow students to download their own data into a simple, machine-readable file that they could share – at their own discretion – with third parties that develop helpful consumer tools.

**Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA):** One year ago, DoD committed to making DoDEA schools a leader in the use of advanced learning technologies that have the potential to significantly improve student performance. Today, DoDEA pledges to take an important step in that effort by committing to offer students and families secure, timely and electronic access to their student data via a “MyData Button.” To realize that commitment, DoDEA will be examining the feasibility of giving parents access to their child's electronic academic records such as transcripts and student performance data by 2013. This download capability is a simple concept -- parents would be able to download their own children's school information in a common, interoperable format at any time, and any place by clicking a button on a secured website hosted by DoDEA. Parents with such access can better plan for and manage their children's educational needs, particularly during school transitions. This project is a reflection of DoDEA's belief that providing parents access to their children's educational information contributes to better engagement in school matters and, ultimately, better

educational outcomes for students. DoDEA is interested in learning about similar endeavors from public school districts.

## **PRIVATE SECTOR/PARTNER COMMITMENTS**

### **Learning Registry Partner Commitments:**

**The California Department of Education** has been sharing data through Learning Registry since before the project was even formally launched, via Brokers of Expertise and CTEOnline teacher portals. Today they commit to running core Learning Registry infrastructure, and increasing the amount of data they will share with the public and other organizations, including Common Core standards alignment data.

**The New York State Department of Education** has begun exploring how to leverage the Learning Registry to improve the teacher voice in their data and content systems. They are very interested in using Learning Registry to let teachers show what resources are effective and what works over time.

**The Michigan and Florida Departments of Education** will integrate the Learning Registry into their innovative online learning resource repositories for teachers, Florida's CPALMS and Michigan's MORE sites, to share standards alignment and other data, as well as utilize these data from each other, California and other organizations.

**Houghton Mifflin Harcourt** shares the Department of Education's mission to increase individualized instruction and accessibility to data. As part of this commitment, they will publish their full catalog of Common Core assets to The Learning Registry to provide enhanced resources to teachers, parents and students no matter which Learning Registry-enabled system they access.

**Pearson** has committed to supporting open and interoperable systems that put high-quality, personalized learning resources into the hands of teachers and students. In support of this goal, Pearson will share data into the Learning Registry about many of their existing learning resources, including those that support the Common Core State Standards so that they can be used in each student's personal learning path. In addition to making their resources more accessible across many different learning systems through Learning Registry, they are committed to using the Learning Registry as an important component of finding and using high quality materials produced by others within their learning systems.

**JISC/UK**, a technology branch of the UK Government, has been running a research program utilizing Learning Registry technology, including running core infrastructure and undertaking fundamental research into personalization and advanced data issues.

### **“MyData Button” commitments:**

**ETS**, in cooperation with **StraighterLine**, commits to offer test takers and students secure, timely and electronic access to their iSkills assessment and ETS Proficiency Profile data via a “MyData Button.” Both organizations commit to working in a voluntary fashion with others in

the education technology industry to reach consensus on standardizing this process to encourage its reuse by third party application developers.

**Houghton Mifflin Harcourt** commits to providing more transparency into student achievement by giving parents and students the ability to download, via a “MyData Button”, performance data from their platform in a machine-readable format.

**Pearson** commits to support the “MyData Button” initiative being announced today. Pearson already offers parents access to download their child’s record of learning through the PowerSchool student information system’s parent portal, and, by the end of the year, will provide this capability through the GradeSpeed grade book parent portal. The “MyData Button” initiative aligns with Pearson’s long-standing pledge to provide secure access to the data that can help educators and families create and manage a path of personalized learning for every child.

**“Data Locker” commitments:**

**Microsoft** commits to creating a cloud-based platform for a Lifelong Learning Record (LLR). By building on the success of HealthVault they can accelerate this work. Developers and partners will be able to use the open, cross-platform HealthVault application programming interface (API) to build “apps” in support of individual learners, facilitating an ecosystem of services that help students not only manage their lifelong learning profile, but also use it in novel ways—for example, automatically demonstrating proof of competency in a work setting, or earning academic achievements and reputation points with peers.

**Parchment**, with a mission to unleash education credentials by unlocking the critical data they embody, commits to implementing a "MyData Button" to help students securely store, aggregate, and put their education data to work in their personal credential account. Parchment further commits to work in a collaborative manner with others in the education technology industry to standardize the format, as well as to encourage its reuse by third-party application developers.

**Personal**, which gives individuals the tools to create a private, personal network built on a secure data vault where they can aggregate, manage and control access to their data and online identity when connecting with people, companies and organizations, commits to joining the effort to liberate student data records. Personal’s platform will allow individuals to easily import their own education records into their data vault and grant secure access to trusted recipients.

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