

The Alignment of the DQC’s 10 Essential Elements with the America COMPETES 12 Elements

In 2007, through the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110–69), the federal government codified the 12 elements of a P-16 education data system. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the federal government reaffirmed its commitment to the development and use of these data systems by requiring states, as a condition of receiving State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, to commit to building a data system which consists of all the elements indicated in America COMPETES. The table below shows how the 12 elements that were detailed in America COMPETES are aligned with the DQC’s 10 Essential Elements.

DQC 10 Essential Elements	Comparable COMPETES Element
1. A unique statewide student identifier that connects student data across key databases across years	1. A unique statewide student identifier that does not permit a student to be individually identified by users of the system
2. Student-level enrollment, demographic and program participation information	2. Student-level enrollment, demographic, and program participation information
3. The ability to match individual students' test records from year to year to measure academic growth	6. Yearly test records of individual students with respect to assessments under section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b))
4. Information on untested students and the reasons they were not tested	7. Information on students not tested by grade and subject
5. A teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students	8. A teacher identifier system with the ability to match teachers to students
6. Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned	9. Student-level transcript information, including information on courses completed and grades earned
7. Student-level college readiness test scores	10. Student-level college readiness test scores
8. Student-level graduation and dropout data	3. Student-level information about the points at which students exit, transfer in, transfer out, drop out, or complete P-16 education programs
9. The ability to match student records between the P-12 and higher education systems	4. The capacity to communicate with higher education data systems
	11. Information regarding the extent to which students transition successfully from secondary school to postsecondary education, including whether students enroll in remedial coursework
	12. Other information determined necessary to address alignment and adequate preparation for success in postsecondary education
10. A state data audit system assessing data quality, validity and reliability	5. A State data audit system assessing data quality, validity, and reliability