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Arkansas is well positioned to be a leader in data-driven decision-making.

- [Act 912 of 2017](), [Act 936 of 2019](), and [Act 742 2021]()
  - Established the Data and Transparency Panel (DTP) and
  - Created the Chief Data Officer (CDO) & Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) positions.
  - Modified the membership and duties of the DTP
- In the four years since the passage of Act 912, we have made significant progress in executing on the legislature's charges.

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- ARData's mission is to leverage the state's data resources to make better decisions and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state government.

- To support its mission, ARData is building the following components that are necessary for data-driven decision-making:

  - A high–functioning integrated data system with effective data governance;
  - The analytic capacity to use data to produce actionable insights; and
  - A process to identify high-priority issue areas and use data to continuously improve.

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- TSS has developed an ARData team with deep knowledge and experience in data integration, research and analysis, privacy protection, and evidence-based policy.

- The ARData leadership team is comprised of:
  - Josh McGee – Chief Data Officer
  - Robert McGough – Chief Analytics Officer
  - Jennifer Davis – Chief Privacy Officer
  - Stuart Buck – Chief Research Officer

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- We have built a statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS) that can efficiently integrate the state's datasets.
  - Effective governance
  - Capability to match data across datasets/systems
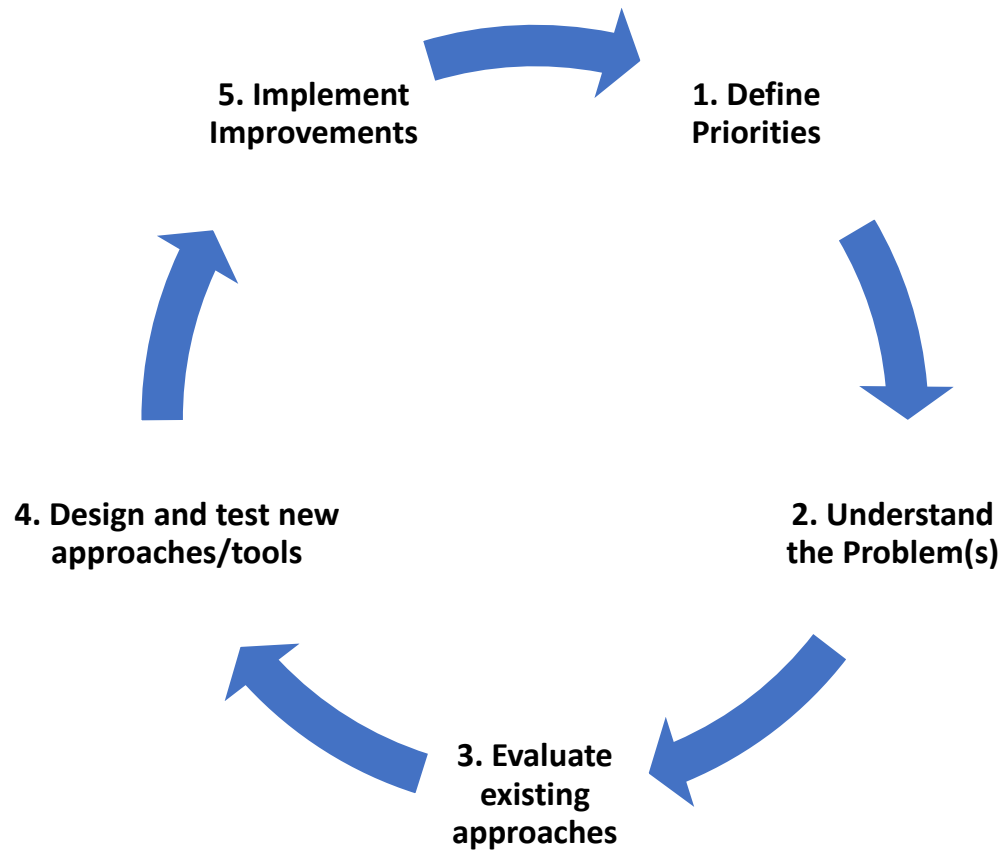 - Enterprise data sharing agreement

Arkansas Data Sharing Agreement

- Developing data sharing agreements (DSA) has been an ad hoc, inefficient, and time-consuming process.

- We have developed an enterprise data sharing agreement and a more efficient process for DSAs.

- The data sharing framework establishes consistent data governance rules and will facilitate increased data sharing between departments.

- The proposed DSA framework has been approved by the DTP governance committee and signed by most departments.

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- ARData is working to increase the state's ability to use data to deliver actionable insights by:
  - Building a small analytics team that operates as a shared service;
  - Working with other Departments to develop internal analytics capacity; and
  - Collaborating with higher education institutions to leverage existing subject matter experts (SME).

Process for Continuous Improvement

5. Implement Improvements

1. Define Priorities

2. Understand the Problem(s)

3. Evaluate existing approaches

4. Design and test new approaches/tools

- Our goal is to use data to help make the state more efficient and effective.

- We currently work to address problems in a somewhat ad hoc and sporadic fashion.

- Data-driven decision-making requires that we develop a more continuous and routine problem-solving process.

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Integrated Data System

Analytics Capacity

Continuous Improvement Process

Supported Projects

Economic Security Report

Arkansas Higher Education Master Plan

Ready for Life

Workforce Data Quality Initiative

Governor's Emergency Education Relief

ARHOME

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- We've reframed the role of the DTP to be less focused on technical details and more focused on becoming a catalyst for data-driven innovation.

- DTP's primary goal will be to identify and explore new opportunities to use cross-department collaboration and data to improve state services.

- Your secretary appointed you to the DTP because you see the big picture for your Department and can help us make Arkansas a leader in data-driven decision-making.

Data and Transparency Panel Duties

1) Evaluate and identify data to be included in the statewide data warehouse program;

2) Determine and recommend procedures necessary for the implementation of a statewide data warehouse program;

3) Oversee a statewide data warehouse program implemented in this state;

4) Evaluate and identify data that may be provided to the public in accordance with data standards and specifications developed by the Department of Information Systems;

5) Engage other divisions, boards, and commissions by soliciting input on information sharing opportunities;

6) Provide annual reports to the Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology; and

7) Develop a unified longitudinal system that links existing siloed agency information for education and workforce outcomes to continuously conduct a business systems assessment to:
   a) Help the leaders of this state and service providers develop an improved understanding of individual outcomes resulting from education and workforce pipelines in Arkansas;
   b) Identify opportunities for improvement by using real-time information; and
   c) Continuously align programs and resources to the evolving economy of this state.

MyARData

- Providing Arkansas's citizens with better, more salient information will increase both transparency and accountability.

- We performed a 50-state review and selected the best-in-class vendors.

- MyARData will go live in December 2021.

- Implemented using Socrata Open Data & Citizen Engagement and Tableau embedded dashboards.

MyARData Features

- Searchable metadata for cataloged data sets

- Self-service data exploration via tables, charts, and maps

- Programmatic access via APIs

- Catalog and feature external Arkansas open data sites and products (e.g., My School Info, Discover Arkansas)

- Citizen Connect application will provide an interactive, mobile-friendly map that provides alerts, analysis, and guided exploration of location-relevant data on government and community services and events (e.g., job fairs, etc.)

MyARData Approach

- Automate feeds on a regular schedule via the data hub for timely data with minimal ongoing manual effort.

- All data sets will go through a lightweight governance process to ensure metadata, stewardship, and quality.

MyARData Initial Datasets

- Higher Education Planning Guide (ESR) and related data and dashboards

- Align Arkansas 2026 Higher Education Master Plan and related data

- Transformation dashboards (e.g., budgeted and actual expenditures and positions)

- Available data will continue expanding each quarter as part of the ARData development process.