Supporting Early Warning Systems

Using Data to Keep Students On Track to Success

What Is an Early Warning System?

Early warning systems combine multiple data points, translate them into predictive indicators that are based on research, and proactively communicate them to stakeholders, so they can examine which students are or are not on track for postsecondary success and intervene accordingly. Early warning reports provide the student-level information necessary to develop interventions that will help guide students back on track, while reports with aggregated data can provide insights for improvement at the school and district levels. States can use early warning data to work toward broader policy goals, such as school improvement efforts and increased graduation rates.

31 states produce early warning reports, up from 18 states in 2011.

Most states tailor the reports to educators, who can help get students back on track.

- **28 states** tailor reports to PRINCIPALS
- **24 states** tailor reports to COUNSELORS
- **21 states** tailor reports to TEACHERS
- **7 states** tailor reports to PARENTS

In 20 states, early warning reports are updated throughout the school year and are presented through dashboards or portals.

In the remaining states, early warning reports are updated once or twice a year in a static report, or the format and timing of the reports vary by district.
The state education agency (SEA) collects, stores, and analyzes raw student-level data and provides analyzed information back to schools and districts.

The SEA provides an analytical tool that allows districts and schools to upload their own local data.

The SEA collects data on behalf of local education agencies and provides them to other partners who conduct the analysis provided to schools and districts.

Other

Most states take an active role in producing early warning reports.

In 10 states, school or district leaders have the ability to adjust the indicators or thresholds used to identify students.

The state connects with national researchers who can provide guidance on selecting indicators.

The state leverages pre-existing relationships with research partners at institutions of higher education or regional educational centers.

In states are supporting the development of research-based indicators for early warning reports in multiple ways. In 10 states, school or district leaders have the ability to adjust the indicators or thresholds used to identify students.

In most states, schools and districts use early warning reports to identify students at risk of dropping out. In 10 states, schools and districts use early warning reports to identify students at risk of dropping out and students on track for college and career readiness. Four states (Arkansas, Maine, North Carolina, and Oregon) provide opportunities for schools or districts to share information about which interventions helped students and which did not.

To identify students at risk of dropping out

To identify students who should take more rigorous courses

To identify students at risk for remediation in postsecondary

To track interventions that were implemented

To identify students on track for college and career readiness

In most states, schools and districts use early warning reports to identify students at risk of dropping out. In 10 states, schools and districts use early warning reports to identify students at risk of dropping out and students on track for college and career readiness. Four states (Arkansas, Maine, North Carolina, and Oregon) provide opportunities for schools or districts to share information about which interventions helped students and which did not.