The exchange must add value for all parties, and how value is defined will differ among parties.

Existing proxy measures are inadequate to fully understand human capital development and mobility; data collected at the individual level are essential to analyzing differential outcomes and effectively targeting policy and practice interventions.

Longitudinal data are not necessary for ALL policy-relevant research, although sample-based research still has value.

The exchange must be fully FERPA-compliant.

The exchange is not intending to create a new data collection; rather, it will be pulling together data from existing sources, although it prove to be necessary or desirable to derive elements for use in analyses.

The process of data matching and analytical methodologies used for reports produced by the exchange must be transparent and well-documented.

The principal goal of the exchange is to produce research that is relevant to policy; the resulting data are not primarily intended for accountability, which remains the responsibility of the states. As such, they are less comprehensive and should not replicate institutional, transactional-based systems or individual state’s own data systems.

The exchange is specifically intended to raise state awareness of the movement of human capital across state lines and give states tools to formulate state policy while taking into account that movement.

Consistent interpretation of data is necessary to provide meaningful reporting; this requires common definitions or agreed-upon translations.

Analytical focus will be on transition points and student success (i.e., what is the relationship between success in college or in the workforce and students’ educational backgrounds?).

Analyses of student success in the workforce will (eventually) look beyond initial employment.

The requirements for data differ according to the “level” of the educational infrastructure (i.e., a statewide LDS has less need for detail than does the school district or postsecondary institution).

Ownership of the data remains with the supplying agency.