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**Subject:** NVC 020915 Your Recommendations -- GAO Study  
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# **NAEPDC**

## *News, Views, and Clues*

February 9, 2015

Your Recommendations -- GAO Study

WIOA requires the GAO a study of core program data systems (see background below)

I am meeting with them on Thursday (12<sup>th</sup>) to begin the discussion.

### **REQUEST:**

1. If you have particular issues you would like for me to present, please email me (Subject Line: GAO Issues) by Wednesday noon.
2. If you would be interested in meeting with GAO to provide them with input on the issues below, email me (Subject Line: GAO Discussions) by Wednesday noon, also.

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### **Their Charge:**

GAO has recently begun work on a congressional mandate contained in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (see section below). As part of our initial work, we'd like to meet with representatives from the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education to gain your perspectives on issues associated with reporting performance outcomes for adult education programs. Our effort is focused primarily on the databases and data exchange agreements that support programs that were significantly modified by the Act. We are also interested in learning more about how participant data is managed, maintained, and safeguarded.

### **WIOA SEC. 505. REPORT ON DATA CAPABILITY OF FEDERAL AND STATE DATABASES AND DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit an interim report and a final report to Congress regarding existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements, as of the date of the report, that contain job training information relevant to the administration of programs authorized under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) list existing Federal and State databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) and, for each, describe—

- (A) the purposes of the database or agreement;
  - (B) the data elements, such as wage and employment outcomes, contained in the database or accessible under the agreement;
  - (C) the data elements described in subparagraph (B) that are shared between States;
  - (D) the Federal and State workforce training programs from which each Federal and State database derives the data elements described in subparagraph (B);
  - (E) the number and type of Federal and State agencies having access to such data;
  - (F) the number and type of private research organizations having access to, through grants, contracts, or other agreements, such data; and
  - (G) whether the database or data exchange agreement provides for opt-out procedures for individuals whose data is shared through the database or data exchange agreement;
- (2) study the effects that access by State workforce agencies and the Secretary of Labor to the databases and data exchange agreements described in subsection (a) would have on efforts to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and on individual privacy;
  - (3) explore opportunities to enhance the quality, reliability, and reporting frequency of the data included in such databases and data exchange agreements;
  - (4) describe, for each database or data exchange agreement considered by the study described in subsection (a), the number of individuals whose data is contained in each database or accessible through the data agreement, and the specific data elements contained in each that could be used to personally identify an individual;
  - (5) include the number of data breaches having occurred since 2004 to data systems administered by Federal and State agencies;
  - (6) include the number of data breaches regarding any type of personal data having occurred since 2004 to private research organizations with whom Federal and State agencies contract for studies; and
  - (7) include a survey of the security protocols used for protecting personal data, including best practices shared amongst States for access to, and administration of, data elements stored and recommendations for improving security protocols for the safe warehousing of data elements.

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Keep up the good work. Let me know when we can help.

## NAEPDC

***A Natural Resource For Adult Education State Directors and their Staff Members***

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