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Governance of Data Partnerships

Overview

A [data partnership](#) is an arrangement between two or more parties that agree to collaborate for the purpose of advancing their mutual data interests (e.g., Part C and Early Hearing Detection and Intervention or Part B 619 and State Longitudinal Data System). Such collaboration often involves matching, linking, and/or integrating record-level data. (A [data partnership](#) is not needed when publicly available aggregate data from one agency are being shared and used by another.)

Given the importance and sensitivity of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) data, it is critical to establish [data governance](#) policies when Part C and/or Part B 619 are in any [data partnership](#). This Governance of Data Partnerships section of the DaSy Governance Toolkit does not address “how to” data activities and processes. Instead, it focuses on the joint governance: the legal requirements and the [management](#) of the [data partnership](#).

Navigating This Section of the Toolkit

This Governance of Data Partnerships section of the Toolkit is for Part C and Part B 619 programs that need to share record-level data with another program or agency. It provides foundational information to prepare partners as they jointly consider and build a [data sharing agreement](#) and/or [data partnership management plan](#). Although DaSy suggests accessing the sections in the order shown below, it is more important to start where the partners are, where the need is greatest.

What if my agency or program does not have adequate [data governance](#) policies and/or a structure?

Agencies in a [data partnership](#) are responsible for their own [data governance](#) policies. If your agency does not have adequate program-level [data governance](#), DaSy encourages you to use the [Data Governance Toolkit](#) to establish strong [data governance](#) policies *before* beginning a [data partnership](#) with another agency or program.