



Supporting Systems-Involved Youth: What Districts Need to Know

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Administrator, Office of Data Management & Application Development



Agenda

- Overview of the Nebraska Department of Education in supporting systems involved youth
- NDE's statutory responsibilities under LB 296
- Key components of implementation
- Opportunities for engagement and supporting implementation efforts.



Wendy Schardt, Director



Hiring, Registrar

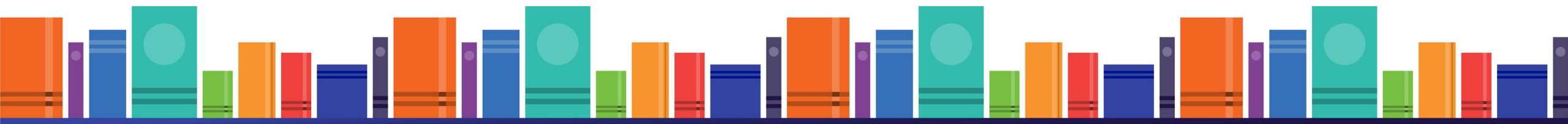


Alyssa Moore, Registrar

NDE Systems-Involved Youth Department Team

How We Support Schools and Systems

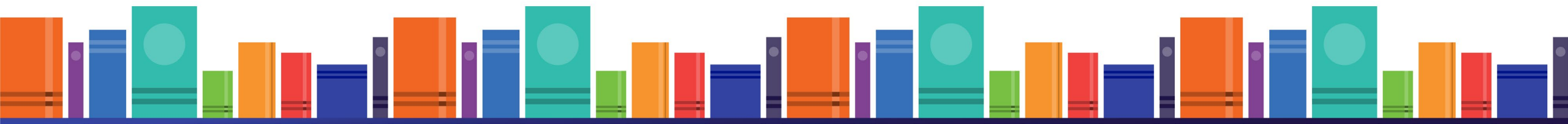
- Lead statewide strategies to improve educational outcomes for SIY
- Provide guidance and technical assistance to districts on residency, credit evaluation and school stability
- Implement and operationalize NDE responsibilities under LB 296
- Partner with Rule 18 schools to strengthen curriculum alignment and expand CTE (Career & Technical Education) access
- Convene cross-system partners to promote shared accountability





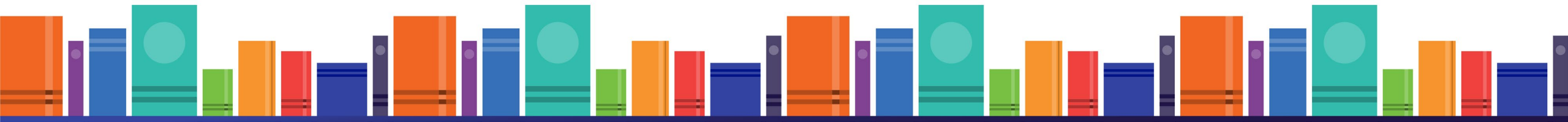
NDE Over the years: Strengthening our Infrastructure for Systems-Involved Youth

- Transitioned from a consultant-supported, projects-based efforts
- Full time director focusing exclusively on systems-involved youth education with team of registrars
- Building internal capacity for sustained policy development
- Positioning this work for long-term agency priority



Progress toward Systems Alignment

- LB 705 (2023) updated multiple education and enrollment laws, prompting closer review of how records move for court involved youth
- 79-303.01 (2023) required NDE, DHHS, Probation and Courts to create a data sharing MOU
- Law required NDE to hire a consultant (Bellwether)
- Report (2024) highlighted opportunities to strengthen/streamline information flow across agencies





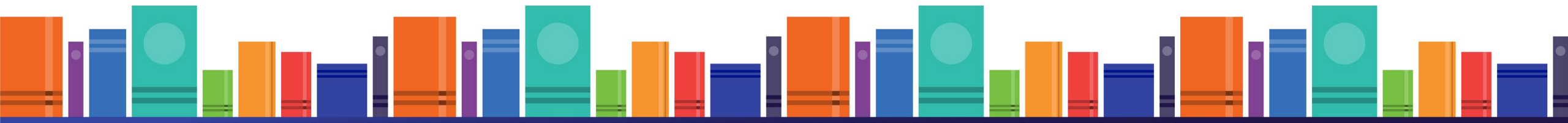
How we got here: Bellwether Report Findings



Progress Towards Systems Alignment

Key Findings:

- System involved students experience high mobility, inconsistent school attendance and disrupted learning, making it difficult to accumulate credits and maintain progress toward graduation
- Cross agency data sharing is fragmented and inefficient; there are delays in transferring transcripts, IEPs, attendance records, often incomplete or inaccurate records
- Student are repeating course work unnecessarily
- Ineffective data sharing leads to harm for students; students placed in inappropriate classes, lost or incomplete records, delays in services, reduced likelihood of on time graduation
- Students dropping out and feeling frustrated





Quote from Anonymous Systems-Involved Youth

“I’ve been to five different high school programs...I’ve done everything and all my credits have been lost, so I’ve just given up.”

Anonymous

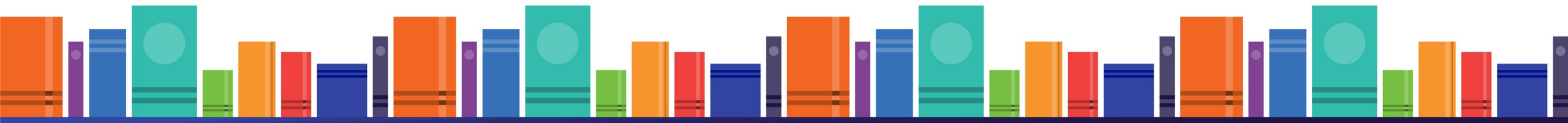
Student Interviewed as part of LB 705



LB 296 is the response

LB 296: What it Requires

- Centralized Education Records System
 - Immediate transfer of records
 - Credit hours awarded promptly
- Registrars
 - Manage and analyze records across placements
 - Award credit hours for academic work
 - Tracking of out of state and non-public enrollments
- Graduating students
 - Rule 10 minimum of 200 credits/State Defined Graduation Plan



FINISH STRONG NEBRASKA

Data sharing across agencies to provide a better picture of Systems-Involved Youth and their experience in education

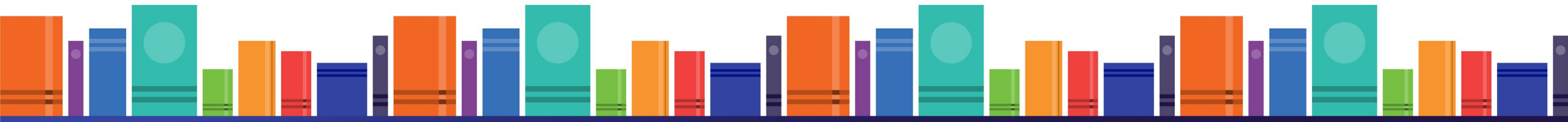
Credit Evaluation: NDE team (Registrars) to support smooth student transitions through credit evaluations

State Diploma: for eligible students, providing flexibility to graduate students at the State defined 200 minimum credits

Eligibility for State defined Grad plan



- ✓ Students who are under the jurisdiction of juvenile court
- ✓ Students who have had an out of home placement any time during high school
- ✓ Students who have completed the minimum Nebraska State Board of Education required credit hours and core curriculum (Rule 10) can:
 1. Graduate from their enrolled high school (Preferred)
 - OR
 2. Receive a State High School Diploma



Implementation

1) How do we know who these students are?

Data system called *RISE SI* (Records and Integration Supporting Education for Systems-Involved Youth)

2) How do we evaluate credits?

Registrars

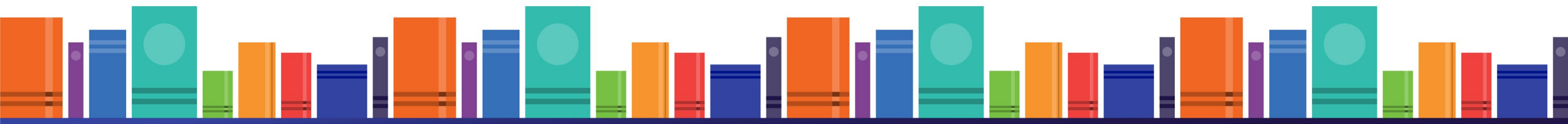
3) How do we ensure graduation to those who meet the state requirements?

Collaboration with districts



RISE-SI: Records Integration Supporting Education for Systems-Involved Youth

1. Identifies systems-involved youth with data from Courts, Probation, and DHHS
2. Matches youth to an NDE Student ID (or generate a new ID) to unlock connection to existing ADVISER data
3. Determines if the student is eligible for the state graduation plan
4. Uses enrollment and student outcomes data to identify the eligible students who best fit the state graduation plan
5. Provides a secure tool for evaluating and granting credits and reporting to ADVISER
6. Equips NDE to issue a diploma, if necessary
7. Supports student transition and transfer by allowing enrolling districts and Rule 18 placements to view program, course, and credit information held by NDE through ADVISER Validation



RISE SI System

Supports for systems-involved youth

Information is shared with NDE by Courts, Probation, and DHHS



Student records are matched through ADVISER Person ID



Case and placement data are stored in RISE-SI to allow for connection to ADVISER while protecting student privacy and sealed case requirements



Support for all students

Student, program, enrollment and course history held by NDE on a single student are made available to enrolling districts, Rule 18 placements, and districts receiving transfers



Data from RISE-SI is joined with data from ADVISER to identify students who are eligible for the state graduation plan



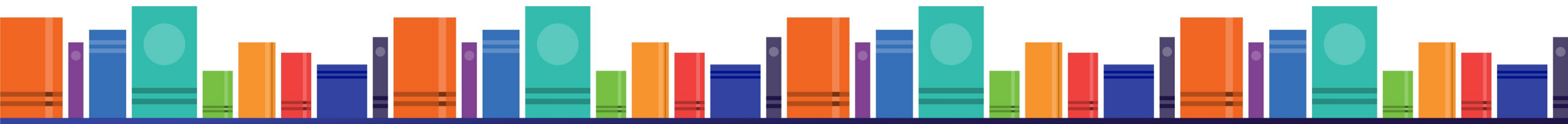
Diploma issued by current high school, prior high school, or by NDE and completion reported back to ADVISER



NDE supports credit evaluation and award and possible diploma issuance through a secured instance of NebSIS.

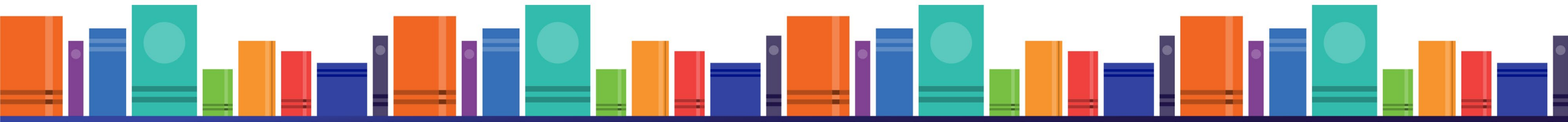


Internal NDE reports use enrollment and other academic factors to identify eligible students for whom the graduation plan is most appropriate and help prioritize outreach



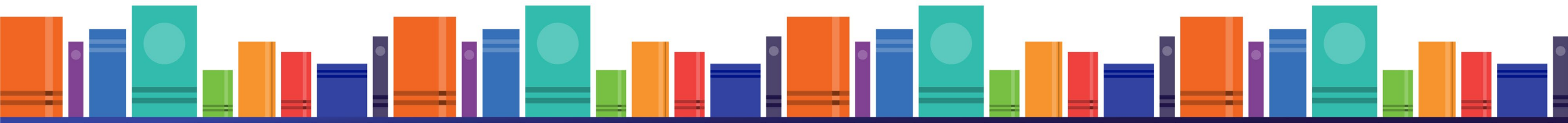
Credit Evaluation: NDE Registrars

- Review all previous coursework to determine which credits meet Nebraska's minimum 200 credit graduation requirements
- Collaborate closely with school counselors and registrars to verify transcripts, credit equivalencies and course completion
- Identify gaps, duplications, and partially completed credits, especially for students with multiple placements
- Ensure credit transfer
- Confirm that awarded credits support the students state-defined graduation plan and maintain on track progress



State Diploma: Our Vision

- **Application process:** Students/School Counselors will complete a formal application before a State Diploma can be considered.
- **Targeted Outreach:** NDE Registrars will run eligibility reports.
- **Technical Assistance:** NDE to provide technical assistance to School Counselors on how the state-defined plan can provide flexibility to the student's postsecondary goals.
- **Resident District:** The resident school district is the preferred issuer of the student's diploma.
- **The State Diploma:** A State diploma is issued only if the resident school district declines or is unable to award the diploma.



NDE Systems-Involved Youth Department Team Roles



Eligibility check



Credit evaluation



NDE Diploma



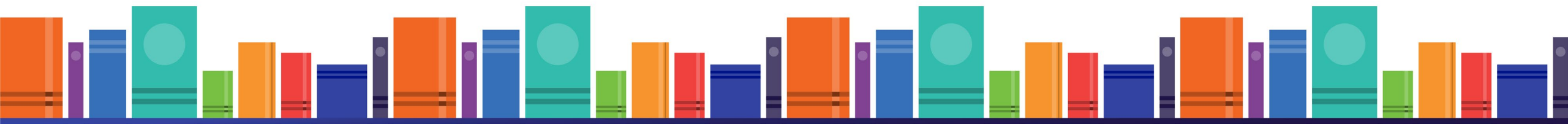
Supports

Professional Development

Coaching

Technical Assistance

Targeted Outreach



District's Roles



**Request eligibility check
for incoming students**



**Partner with NDE
Registrars for a
comprehensive review
of credits**

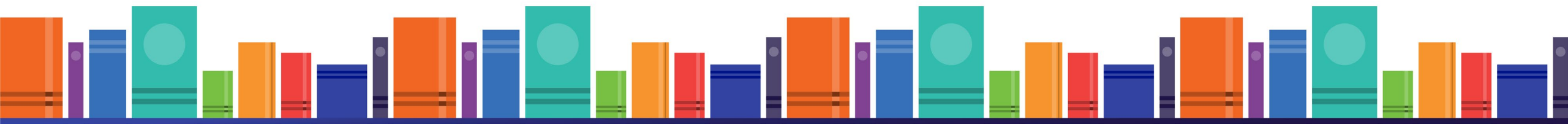


**Issue a school diploma
when the eligible
student completes the
mandatory 200 credits**



**Build staff awareness by
attending NDE's training
on systems-involved
youth needs**

**Continue to offer high-
quality academic and
postsecondary advising
that meets the student's
career and college goals.**



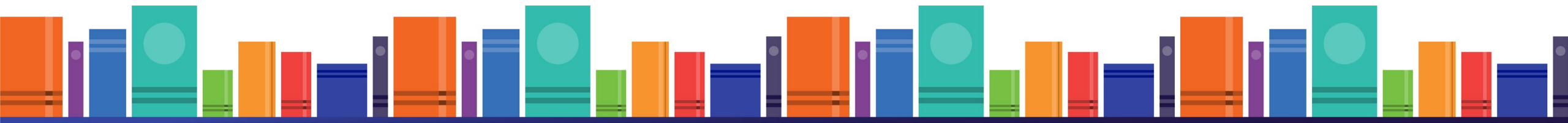
Data Backpack

In Development

- 2026-2027 – Student Educational Report

Planned

- 2027-2028 – Current year data will flow into local SIS from ADVISER
- 2028-2029 – Current and previous data available from ADVISER to SIS



Student Educational Report

- In ADVISER Validation
- Data on students enrolled in your district
 - ADVISER will need to receive the Enrollment record before the report will be available
 - Report will have current and previous year data on the student as submitted by other ADVISER districts
- Available for all students, not just those who are systems involved



Student Educational Report Data

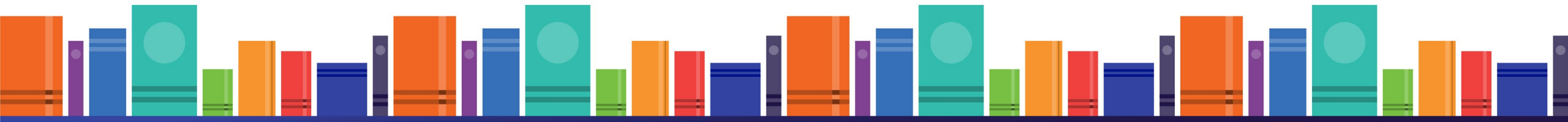
- Enrollment data
 - Including Rule 18
- Course data (current year)
 - Subject, Course, Teacher
- Course data (prior years)
 - School Year, School
 - Subject, Course
 - Attempt Status, Grade
- Program data
 - Homeless
 - Special Education
 - English Learners
 - Immigrant
 - Migrant
 - Section 504
 - Honors/Advanced Placement
- Assessment data (in ADVISER)

What are we missing?



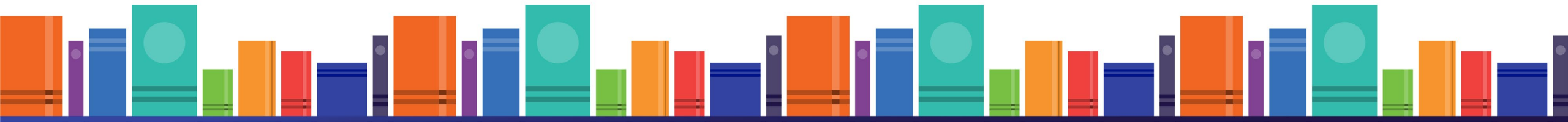
Person ID

- Systems-involved students will be matched in Person ID
- Those match records will NOT be viewable by districts



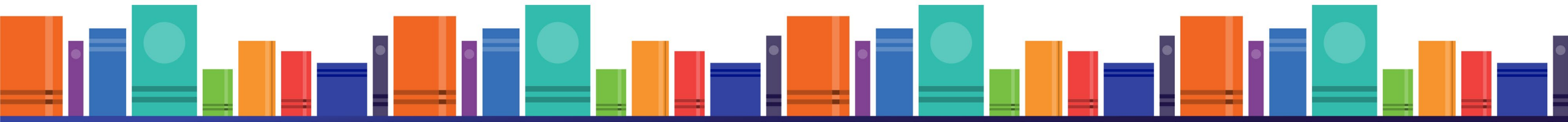
New ADVISER Exit Code

- New code for State High School Diploma- 218
- Only for qualified students
- Student reported with this code are treated the same as 210
Completer: Graduated with a Regular or Advanced Diploma for all reporting purposes including Cohort Graduation Rate.



Summary

- NDE Registrars will work with credits
- Report available in ADVISER
- Still need to determine how districts can request that students graduate with state diploma
- Email address coming – connect to ticketing system





Questions

Contact

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