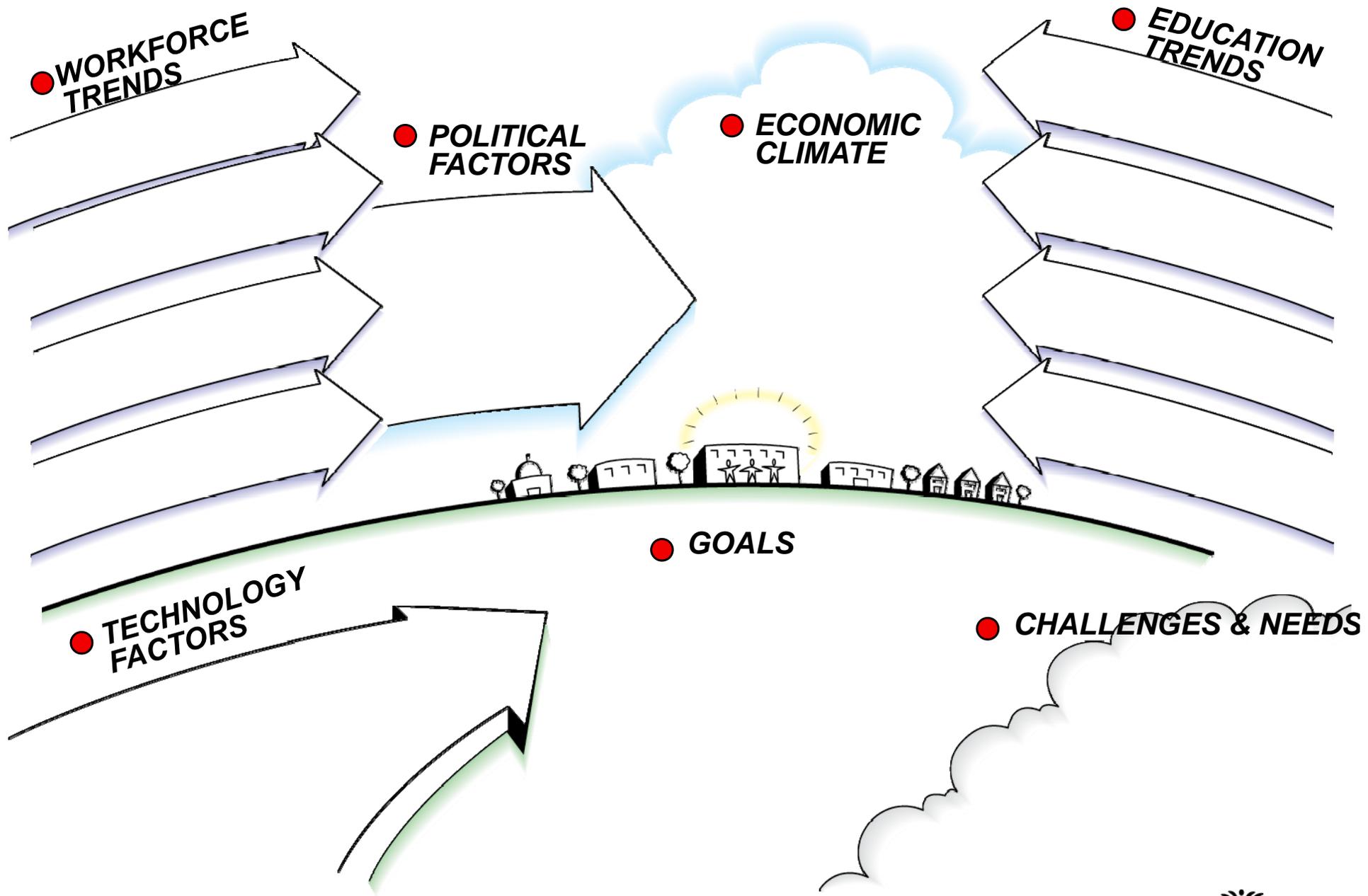


SLDS CONTEXT MAP





Workforce Data Quality Initiative

Context Map Conversation Starter

WHAT IS A CONTEXT MAP?

A context map is a visual depiction of the context within which an organization, department, or project team works. Contextual factors can include larger environmental forces, history, stakeholders, and related projects.

Creating a context map in conversation with representatives of multiple state agencies and supporting entities can provide the following benefits:

- Develops a big-picture view of the environment
- Increases understanding of complex situations
- Identifies factors and trends that need tracking
- Strengthens group analytical skills

Context maps can include all kinds of categories, but to start, we'll use the following:

1. Workforce and Education Trends
2. Political Factors
3. Technology Factors
4. Economic Climate
5. Challenges & Needs
6. Goals

HOW TO USE THE CONTEXT MAP TODAY

WDQI Grantees use this map with their technical assistance coaches to develop the coaching relationship and set goals. At the SLDS Conference, you can use this activity in a different way.

1. Today you are seated at state-specific tables. Start by meeting everyone at your table!
2. Use your map as a conversation starter to ask your state colleagues about their perception of trends, factors, the labor market, needs, and goals as they pertain to using data systems and reporting to support education and workforce participation and success.
3. Note who says what so that you can refer to the map throughout the conference and after you return home to make progress toward longitudinal data system functionality and reporting.