

## Data Quality Standards:

Evidence of the quality of your state adult education program requires valid and reliable data that documents performance outcomes. To assist states in identifying the critical elements in developing and implementing effective data systems, DAEL developed the Data Quality Standards. The standards provide an organized way for you to understand and evaluate NRS data quality by defining data quality standards in four areas:

- Data Foundation and Structure
- Data Collection and Verification
- Data Analysis and Reporting
- Staff Development

To allow DAEL to assess the quality of your NRS data, DAEL developed the standards into the Data Quality Checklist. You submit this checklist with your annual NRS data submission. The checklist describes state NRS policies and the data collection procedures that local programs follow to collect NRS data.

Within each area there are three levels of quality that reflect whether your state has policies and procedures likely to improve the reliability and validity of data:

- Acceptable quality
- Superior quality
- Exemplary quality

Based on the checklist, DAEL classifies states' NRS data procedures into one of these levels each year. To be eligible for incentive awards under WIA, states must meet standards at the superior level or higher.

You must also include with the checklist a plan for data quality improvement. The director of the administrative State agency where the Federal adult education and literacy program resides must certify the checklist.

Several states have taken the DAEL Data Quality Checklist and adapted it for local use. These checklists create very clear expectations for local providers regarding data collection and reporting procedures, training, and use of data for program improvement.

For more information on the DAEL Data Quality Checklist, click [here](#).  
For examples on how states have used the checklist at the local level, click [here](#).