

Our Commitment to Open Data
OFM Forecasting and Research
September 2016

Our “Future of OFM Forecasting and Research” (July 2013) document noted four cornerstones to all of our work:

- We promote methodological debate and transparency;
- We provide data and analysis when called upon for independent or statewide information;
- We promote open data;
- We support agency-level research operations.

The vision document went on to note our “Deep commitment to open data and methodological transparency.” In recent months, our vision has taken major steps forward around education data and early learning, criminal justice, and health care. Just as the P20W warehouse was founded on a vision of a “thriving education research community,” so all our efforts across the division are strengthened by our commitment to open data.

Moving forward, OFM Forecasting and Research commits to some core principles:

- We are active proponents of open data as part of our core mission.
- We promote data access for Washington researchers and decision makers while maintaining privacy and data security.
- Our goal will be to say “yes” to requests for data and information, subject to privacy, data security, and work load constraints.
- Where state laws limit our ability to meet customer demand for data and information, we will explore changes that promote open data while protecting privacy and security.
- Where federal laws specify privacy restrictions, we will implement our principles of maximum access to data within those legal restrictions, looking for ways to say “yes” within our work load while protecting privacy and security.
- Where work load constraints limit our ability to meet data needs, we will pursue lean principles to improve our efficiency.
- When data providers face technical or workload constraints that limit their ability to provide legally-available data, we will endeavor to use our technical capacity to meet that demand.