

Minnesota LDS Grant Project (R372A060128):
2006 Annual Report
Executive Summary

The purposes of the project (Longitudinal Data Systems to Support Data Driven Decision-Making) can be summarized in a very simple manner as follows.

- Create a warehouse containing Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) data already being collected.
- Using this data, provide analytic facilities and access methods to assist users in their efforts to improve student educational outcomes. (There will be a wide spectrum of users, including researchers, teachers, students, etc.)
- Protect private/confidential information from being accessed inappropriately.

Here is a brief summary of key achievements in 2006.

1. Participated in grantee meetings as well as a collaboration partner meeting in WI to present our data dictionary facilities and pilot warehouse results.
2. Analyzed a number of third party software options and selected one. We are in the process of procuring it.
3. Implemented a pilot warehouse using test results & school finance data. This was reviewed by internal users & a school district.
4. Created data dictionary software, started using it, and shared it with WI DPI partner as noted above.
5. Identified many requirements: interviewed internal users, created a requirements document, hosted focus group discussions for some external users.
6. Investigated data sources & documented the parts that are candidates for inclusion in the LDS warehouse.
7. Started a logical model for the LDS warehouse.
8. Performed trial efforts in the application of warehouse and BI tools to special problems using teacher retention data and school finance data.
9. Put test results data into a production warehouse and used it to generate a data mart from which we made data public by way of an analytic front-end application that we created at MDE. This interface is available through the MDE public website.
10. Obtained agreement for extension of PK-12 identifier use to MN post-secondary institutions.