



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MARYLAND'S LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM: CONTINUING THE VISION

Project Start Date: 4/1/2009

Project End Date: 3/31/2014

Amount Awarded: \$5,990,186

Project Description:

Maryland's enthusiasm is building and expectations are high with the initial components of the state's longitudinal data system (LDS). However, Maryland must continue to build on this successful start to meet the needs of the policy-makers that are eager to use data for decision-making. Maryland needs to create linked longitudinal student records, standardize and update its data collection methodology, increase data collections, expand user access for data reporting and offer training. The state has a Special Education longitudinal data system to assist educators in making decisions that increase student achievement in the crucial area of special education. The processes and lessons learned as a result of this "prototype" LDS informed the vision for the statewide system for all students. Part of the current project will be to integrate the two systems. The project objectives are as follows:

1. Re-engineer the current Education Data Warehouse to accommodate all new data elements that will expand upon previous Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) initiatives;
2. Add modules to the Web Data Collection System to facilitate all data collection and reporting activities and increase efficiency and data quality;
3. Provide advanced business analysis and reporting tools to an expanded user base;
4. Plan and implement the collection of student-level course-related information allowing for the creation of virtual student records used for program evaluation, analysis, and reporting across Local school system (LSS) and school boundaries;
5. Increase the capacity of the Maryland Unique Student Identification System (USIS) for the inclusion of Higher Education and state Workforce data;
6. Provide the knowledge and ability to access MLDS data directly to an expanded user base.

Expected Outcomes:

As a result of this project, Maryland expects to:

- Complete the linking of student data across data collections and years;
- Further reduce the silo structure of major program data collections and integrate the Special Education program with the state's system;
- Increase capacity to provide educators and policy-makers with new and useful data reports to enhance and improve program evaluation and policy decisions;
- Open access to data repositories for schools;
- Work with local school systems to develop a standardized process of defining courses at all three levels (elementary, middle and high) and implement a data collection that will populate the MLDS

with student course and performance (grades) data, adding significantly to Maryland's capacity to use data in policy-making and evaluate student educational experiences;

- Make significant progress in converting all major data collections to the web data collection format that will be used to collect, validate and report Maryland's data. This system includes a Statistical Process Control feature that analyzes submitted data for discrepancies from previous five-year trends, and will improve the accuracy of ED Facts files;
- Increase the capacity of MSDE to provide needed data to policy-makers, especially the State Board of Education and legislators, thereby further reinforcing the need for and value of the longitudinal data system.