

North Dakota

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

NORTH DAKOTA STATEWIDE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM (ndSLEDS)

Project Start Date: 4/1/2009

Project End Date: 3/31/2013

Amount Awarded: \$6,723,090

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (DPI) does not have a statewide longitudinal data system to provide stakeholders ready access to decision making-useful educational data for improving student outcomes. This grant proposal is to fund the planning, design, development, and implementation of a statewide longitudinal data system that will provide data transparency and data analysis tools to North Dakota school districts, schools, teachers, administrators, legislators, researchers, and parents. By providing access to quality and timely data, the State of North Dakota will be better able to identify promising instructional practices, improve student achievement, and reduce achievement gaps among student groups.

DPI has spent several years establishing content standards aligned with assessments to achieve one of its primary goals, “to ensure a comprehensive system of accountability for results-based decision making.” DPI has developed a data system, the State Automated Reporting System (STARS) to collect much of the data sufficient to meet the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), *EDFacts*, and state accountability reporting requirements. STARS also provides the financial data to generate district financial support.

While STARS contains a wealth of K-12 data, it was designed as a “one-way” operational reporting system where data come into DPI, but are not readily accessible to other stakeholders. Although North Dakota has lacked the resources to create a statewide education data warehouse, North Dakota has been able to study how other states are implementing their data warehouses and learn from their experiences while data warehousing technologies and processes mature. North Dakota will use federal funding to help implement national best practices to create an enterprise longitudinal data system that will:

- Consist of a robust data dictionary, data model, extract, transformation and loading processes, and business intelligence toolset
- Provide all key stakeholders with secure, role-based access to longitudinal program, teacher, course, assessment, and student data to analyze ways to improve achievement
- Reduce the reporting burden on districts and the state through the implementation of standardized electronic data exchange
- Meet the ten essential elements of the Data Quality Campaign
- Establish a governance structure that leads statewide adoption of data definitions, data quality procedures, and data stewardship to ensure consistent, reliable data.
- Develop statewide training and research initiatives to build professional learning communities

Other activities will include building on DPI's K-12 foundation to create a statewide longitudinal data system to improve services to North Dakota's citizens across the K-16 education and workforce spectrum. In addition, North Dakota will implement an e-Transcript functionality to share student course data among districts for student transfers, and to post-secondary institutions as appropriate.