

**Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLDS)
Project Summary**

The Longitudinal Data System grant proposal from CSDE identified two primary goals for the first year of funding: develop a framework for a distributed security model; and issue an RFP for the SLDS project and by year end award a contract. The project plan keyed around the three years of funding, and spent the majority of the year in a discovery process gathering business requirements for each major task of the project.

The RFP process was delayed by 3 months due to several factors, chief among them the state's internal procurement process. The RFP was issued on December 1, 2006 with a submission deadline of January 31, 2007. A Vendor's Conference was held on December 18, 2006 and there were over 40 participants representing over 10 vendors.

The following Tasks represent accomplishments in the development of the Connecticut SLDS:

Requirements / Discovery

In December of 2005 CSDE's Project Management Team began the discovery process to define overall requirements for the SLDS RFP. In February of 2006 a high-level analysis identifying current systems and intersections was documented and presented to major stakeholders for vetting. The major tasks of the project were identified and sub-committees were formed for further requirements gathering sessions.

Distributed Security

As part of the original grant proposal CSDE intended to partially finance the procurement of a security framework. The framework was a necessary component to support the roll-out of a longitudinal data system. March and April of 2006 were spent drafting business and functional requirements for the distributed security framework Request for Proposals (RFP). This included the definition of a custom Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) for education entities served by the state.

In May of 2006 CSDE issued an RFP through the state's Department of Information Technology (DOIT). The bidding process yielded three proposals and after one was disqualified for not following the submission instructions CSDE was left with two costly proposals. The agency considered re-issuing the RFP, however, by July, DOIT was able to offer us a more robust security solution using their newly procured suite of NOVELL security products.

In August of 2006 DOIT submitted a proposal of the NOVELL solution and began working with CSDE to assure delivery of the first phase of deployment in January of 2007.

The grant funds that were allocated to the build of the distributed security task (estimated at \$50-75k) have been committed to the development of a single-sign functionality ensuring secure and personalized dissemination to roles within the CSDE directory.

Student Tracking and Case Management RFP Requirements

May and June of 2006 were spent defining business requirements for the augmentation of our Public School Information System (PSIS) student tracking system. Grant funding will be used to connect the PSIS Registration (the real-time directory of students) and the PSIS Collection (the tri-annual collection system) applications. The requirements additionally included a thorough process for the case management of errors resulting in data submissions by the Local Education Agencies (LEA).

Assessment Results Storage and Dissemination RFP Requirements

In May and June of 2006 the Project team met with CSDEs Psychometricians to construct a process model for the administration and results data flow of the state's standardized assessments; the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT). Dependencies and requirements were defined from the process modeling sessions.

AYP/NCLB Results Storage and Dissemination RFP Requirements

CSDE had originally intended to develop an electronic AYP Appeals application. After meeting with the AYP team it was determined that it would not be prudent to develop a separate application when CSDE could dove-tail the functionality into typical PSIS case management. The project team and AYP committee defined functionality in June for AYP/NCLB dissemination and a cross district/facility comparison and reporting tool for both LEA (secure) and the general public.

EDEN and Aggregate Data Storage and Dissemination RFP Requirements

In June and July the Project team met with the CSDE data stewards and identified the items that are part of EDEN submissions. The group also defined those aggregate elements that would most sensibly be included in the SLDS. Aggregate Historical Data are elements that have been collected and stored over the years for various purposes and in assorted formats. Generally, this is aggregate information such as number of books in a school library, hours of instruction or number of classrooms in a school.

The Drafting and Vetting of the Final RFP Document

In August, the discovery and business requirements were compiled and the first draft of the RFP was released. Over 30 individuals from CSDE and the LEAs received copies of the requirements document and were asked to comment.

The stakeholders included:

- LEA - assessment directors, data analysts/researchers and district IT staff. Please note that as part of the actual system build CSDE and the vendor will require participation from instructional staff during a series of Joint Application Development (JAD) process.

- CSDE – Units and Bureaus of: Assessment, AYP, Grants, EDEN, Data Collection, Research, IT, Curriculum, Special Education, and Disciplinary Offense staff

- CSDEs Test Contractor and Assessment Dissemination Partner

The RFP was finalized by CSDE in September 2006 and was forwarded to the state's Department of Information Technology (DOIT) for comments and processing and was issued on December 1, 2006 with a bid closing date of January 31, 2007.

The RFP Evaluation Process

Seven firms submitted proposals for review by CSDE. 14 subject matter experts (including LEA representation) were asked, and agreed to serve on the RFP Evaluation Team. Scoring criteria and rubrics were developed and provided to the evaluation team on February 9, 2007. The evaluation and scoring process will begin on February 20, 2007.