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Grant Performance Report (ED 524B)
Executive Summary

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Wisconsin LDS Executive Summary

In the spring of 2004, Wisconsin began assigning each public school student a unique statewide ID. Approximately 880,000 unique student numbers were assigned in the first year. In March 2005, Wisconsin began to collect individual student record level data through our Individual Student Enrollment System (ISES).

Wisconsin's Information Network for Successful Schools (WINSS) website is a source of valuable information resource for educators, parents, and the general public. The Data Analysis section of the WINSS website allows users to search a database of information about the state's 426 school districts to find out how schools are doing compared to state and national averages in myriad arenas.

Although development work continues in these areas, many states, including Wisconsin, are ill equipped to manage and effectively use the data that states are now required to collect as a result of NCLB requirements and other state and federal policy initiatives.

The vision of the Wisconsin LDS project is to create a longitudinal data decision support tool kit that will facilitate knowledge-based curriculum, assessment, and school operational decisions to improve education effectiveness and delivery. The LDS is being designed to integrate key program area silos of data to produce value-added, on-demand, multi-dimensional analysis' which answer key business and education improvement questions that currently cannot be attained from the data silos.

Specific goals of the Wisconsin LDS include:

1. Create a comprehensive Wisconsin DPI data model that incorporates all siloed program area data and makes all collected data available for value-added and other education data research,
2. Define key tools and decision reports that deliver critical information to DPI program areas and Wisconsin school districts,
3. Develop and deploy a variety of end-user reporting tools that are web-based, self-service, and capable of ad-hoc analysis and reporting and statistical forecasting,
4. Create a comprehensive reporting tool that will provide data submission for the Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN) and other federal reporting requirements.

Ten months into the three year project, the Wisconsin project team has successfully designed and prototyped the Wisconsin Educators' Portal, the framework and public interface of the Wisconsin LDS.

The prototype LDS uses a state of the art technology stack incorporating Oracle data warehousing, business intelligence and a web based reporting tool stack, integrated and delivered to end users through the SOA compliant Oracle Portal software.

The LDS prototype is more than a static reporting system. The portal is an interactive analytical tool suite that will support educational problem solving by integrating many sources of state and local data.

The project team faced and worked through some administrative challenges in purchasing equipment and project staffing. These challenges have had impact on the project timeline but have been compensated for by Agile design and Joint Application Development (JAD) system development strategies.

The project has remained on time and within documented budget throughout the initial ten months of prototype development. Forty percent of the year one budget was held in reserve for production system purchasing which will take place in year two.

Project management and administration continues to meet Project Management Institute (PMI) standards and requirements, and all project documents are available to DPI management and NCES project sponsors through the on-line, project documentation portal. The project scope, plan and process have been audited and reviewed by internal and external consultant reviews. The results of all reviews have been positive.

Year two of the Wisconsin LDS project will include:

1. Continuation of development of the prototype LDS by incorporating additional DPI data systems,
2. Beginning of design and development of the production LDS,
3. Continuation of design and development of EDEN reporting system,
4. Continuation of collection of LDS requirements,
5. Continuation of educational data subject matter expert (SME) consultation on system development and requirements gathering,
6. Continuation of development of educational data research programs,
7. Continuation of development of additional grant development program.

With the successful creation and development of the prototype Wisconsin LDS portal and the implementation of internal and external end user networks for collecting requirements, the project is successfully positioned for continued progress in year two.