

Florida Department of Education
R384A100054

Project Title: Data In...Data Out

1. The title of the project: Data In...Data Out

2. Project Description: This grant competition and the America COMPETES Act clearly define the necessary requirements for a statewide longitudinal data system. The four assurances in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act focus on struggling schools, assessment information for instructional improvement, quality teachers in the classroom, and statewide longitudinal data systems. While the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) currently meets all of the capabilities and system requirements described, FLDOE is using funds from this grant to deepen its commitment to providing timely data to stakeholders including state and local decision makers such as executive leaders, legislators, school board members, and consumers while maintaining very strict privacy protection provisions on student and staff data.

In keeping with this goal, FLDOE proposes to (1) upgrade the four major source data systems that are incorporated into Florida's Education Data Warehouse (EDW); (2) employ a unique identifier system across all education sectors so that social security numbers are no longer the key field for reporting students between Local Education Agencies and the State; (3) provide new and improved reporting capabilities for use by the myriad of education stakeholders; and (4) implement improved data quality processes that provide actionable information to local education agencies regarding their data submissions based on historical patterns in those submissions. The proposed project will provide new analytic dimensions and student confidentiality mechanisms currently unavailable in other states. Not only will results be reported as snapshot views according to schedules, but on historical and longitudinal bases as well. The project will result in processes and tools that may be replicated by other states.

3. The expected outcome of the project on the State's education data system: This project is expected to improve the usability of FLDOE's data by focusing on TIMELINESS, ACCURACY and ACCESSIBILITY while maintaining CONFIDENTIALITY and allowing for program EVALUATION. The source data systems will make the data timelier by implementing new processing methodologies and implementing more periodic system updates. During the system upgrades, FLDOE will implement a statistical validation process verifying data quality to ensure its accuracy. Accuracy at the source system is important to ensure accuracy within the EDW. The proposed system upgrades will also prepare FLDOE's data system to provide more timely feedback to teachers for instructional improvement purposes.

The reporting capabilities will increase the accessibility of FLDOE's data to key stakeholders referred to above. The various aggregate reporting capabilities will be designed to meet the needs of stakeholders based on their data needs, roles and responsibilities. The department will use data from its unified education data warehouse to provide evaluation and analyses of student progress and performance. This will allow FLDOE to identify best practices and approaches which assure student success. The unique identifier system will promote confidentiality regarding student information as data are transferred between the LEAs and the State. The identifier will be different than the one currently assigned so that a student's individual identity and personal characteristics cannot be determined. The new data quality tools and services will enable the Department to work more effectively with LEAs to improve the accuracy of all data submissions.