Florida

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FLORIDA'S ENHANCEMENT OF DATA GOVERNANCE AND RESTRICTED ACCESS TO DATA

Project Start Date: 3/1/2009
Project End Date: 2/28/2014

Amount Awarded: $2,450,000

Project Description:
The Federal long term goal of this program is to increase the number and capacity of comprehensive statewide longitudinal data systems, thereby permitting States to generate accurate and timely data to meet reporting requirements; support evidence-based education decision-making; and increase the efficiency and organization of transferring educational data among schools, districts, and states in order to improve student achievement. In keeping with this goal, Florida proposes (1) to develop a research and analysis tool for use by internal and external researchers upon approval and (2) to expand a data governance structure to enhance Federal reporting and reliable research. The research and analysis tool will be a technologically innovative mechanism that allows researchers with approved proposals to intuitively navigate the site and pull the data fields appropriate to the research proposal. All data will continue to be secure per Florida's nationally recognized data collection and reporting system. This tool will be used to alleviate constrained staff resources and will allow Florida's data to be used to support evidence-based education decision-making in a timelier manner.

Additionally, Florida will readdress and develop a data governance structure that will (1) regularly convene key stakeholders within the Florida Department of Education regarding data definitions and use; (2) utilize a process to determine common definitions across sectors; (3) develop common business rules for routinely requested data; and (4) develop and implement an application to manage and document these steps (metadata tool).

The proposed project will provide dramatic, new analytic dimensions currently unavailable in any state. Not only will there be results reported on periodic, current schedules, but on a longitudinal basis as well. The project will result in processes and techniques that may be replicated in other states. It will serve as a national model that can be adapted and improved upon by others.

Expected Outcomes:
This project is expected to improve, expand and alleviate. It will IMPROVE (1) the usability of data through a self-service research tool; (2) the efficiency with which data requests are fulfilled; and (3) the reliability of research conducted through the use of common business rules. It will EXPAND (1) the reporting capabilities of Florida by creating a process to determine common definitions across sectors and by relaxing the constraints on staff resources; and (2) the use of Florida's data by the State for educational decision-making and by external entities for educational research purposes. Finally, it will ALLEVIATE the use of staff to fulfill data requests. Florida continually searches to develop innovative ways to

continue its service to the general public through the use of educational research and reporting while dealing with the realities of an economic downturn. The proposed project will allow Florida to utilize existing staff for other priority functions while continuing to fulfill the ever-increasing demands on Florida's nationally recognized data collection system.