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## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### IOWA'S UNIFIED LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

**Project Start Date: 4/1/2009**

**Project End Date: 3/31/2014**

**Amount Awarded: \$8,777,459**

The Iowa Department of Education (IDE) recognizes the need and the importance of a comprehensive, accurate, and timely statewide longitudinal data system. IDE is planning to implement key projects to: 1) generate a unified infrastructure for educational data; 2) establish interconnectivity between entities for analysis and planning; and 3) develop a PK-20 system for tracking individuals throughout their education. To achieve these goals, IDE has developed plans for seven activities that loosely conform to the “foundation” and “expansion” activities paradigm set out in the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Request for Application (RFA), and which are listed below in that respective order.

#### Statewide Educational Data Warehouse - EdInsight

IDE has committed significant internal and contractual resources to develop EdInsight. Input was sought from all levels of the Iowa education community to garner support and guidance regarding EdInsight's formation. Assistance from IES would permit IDE to capture and provide more information, more quickly, thereby improving results for the students and educators of Iowa.

#### Standards-Based System for Interoperability

A system for the automatic transmission of student data would enable the state education agency (SEA) and local education agencies (LEAs) in Iowa to improve the accuracy and timeliness of data; it would also free valuable human resources currently expended in the manual data submission processes. A standards-based transmission system would also give LEAs the ability to quickly locate information on students transferring between districts.

#### EDFacts and the National Governor's Association (NGA) Cohort Graduation Rate

The funding received from this RFA would allow Iowa to add dropout information when calculating graduation and cohort dropout rates with greater accuracy. IDE would also be able to augment EdInsight with EDFacts specifications and additional data which would satisfy EDFacts reporting requirements.

#### Expand EdInsight

The first expansion activity would be to enhance EdInsight by adding teachers, finance, additional assessments, transcripts, community colleges, and disaster mitigation data. IDE's research indicates that our constituency recognizes great value in the creation of a comprehensive unified data source which could be used to support schools and districts as well as improve educational outcomes for children. With assistance from the IES grant, the inclusion of this information in EdInsight would become feasible in a meaningful timeframe.

### Interoperability with Postsecondary Systems

Lawmakers (both state and federal) request analyses that require information spanning the entire duration of a student's education. To respond to this need, Iowa must create interoperability with postsecondary data systems. Currently, no funding mechanism exists to support this initiative, so support from IES will be crucial to its success.

### Link Workforce and Educational Data Systems

To assess the preparedness of graduates for future employment or further education, IDE would explore linking workforce information and IDE PK-12 and community college data. Resources from IES would be used to investigate the most appropriate location and structure for organizing and sharing this information.

### Standardized and Electronic Transcripts

Members of the Iowa postsecondary community have requested a standardized transcript format, stored in a centralized location. This will reduce labor costs and transcript processing time, and increase data quality. With such a system, IDE would also be able to provide a service directly to the citizens of Iowa by having secure access to a non-transient source of transcript information in the form of a statewide transcript repository.