



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

INCREASING EFFICIENCIES THROUGH DATA STANDARDS AND SYSTEM INTEROPERABILITY

Project Start Date: 3/1/2009

Project End Date: 2/28/2013

Amount Awarded: \$2,945,000

Building On the Success of Previous Efforts

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recognizes that a high quality, efficient Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) is critical for providing the timely, accurate data needed to drive higher achievement, to reduce achievement gaps among students and to answer key education policy questions. Ohio has successfully met 8 of the 10 essential elements, as defined in the 2007 Data Quality Campaign survey, for a P-12 SLDS and is committed to building upon its prior efforts to continuously improve the quality and timeliness of data provided to all stakeholders for evidence based decision making.

Ohio is currently engaged in a School Interoperability Framework (SIF) implementation for its statewide data collection system. This standardization of data definitions and the creation of a consistent protocol for sharing data between local education agencies and the state will improve the timeliness and accuracy of the data collected by the state and made available for decision making to improve student achievement. The proposed project will be an expansion of this effort and will take Ohio's SLDS to the next level by expanding the use of SIF, allowing the electronic exchange of student records between local education agencies and developing a standard high school transcript format for electronic data transfer to higher education. The availability of student records electronically and in a standardized format is critical so that educators may instantly share and transfer information, enabling a timely assessment of a student's prior educational history. This will enable student placement in the most appropriate curriculum and programs to meet his or her individualized needs. Also, this project will allow the student information systems in Ohio to become interoperable and minimize the administrative burden of manual data entry that is frequently time consuming and prone to error.

A Lever of Change for the Ohio Data System

Ohio's data system has progressed steadily over the past ten years evolving into a robust SLDS system that links data across time facilitating longitudinal analysis of student performance data and that provides decision support capabilities at both the local and state level. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, the system will be based upon internationally recognized data standards for data reporting to the state. While restrictions related to the sharing of K-12 data still exist in the state legislation, recent legislative changes have begun to open the gates for data sharing. This includes allowing the Ohio Department of Health to utilize the K-12 unique student identification system for infants and toddlers who receive special education services and the development of a standard format for high school transcripts for sharing with institutions of higher education.

Opening the Gates for Seamless Data Sharing

This project will build upon existing technological and data standards architecture to:

- Support the timely sharing of reliable data among local education agencies,
- Enable the creation of a standard high school transcript format for sharing with institutions of higher education.