



# Louisiana Department of Education

## *Effective Decision-Making Process*

Pilot Program of the MMCS Consulting  
"EDSCOMM" Decision Support Software

Presenters: Sam Pernici and Mark Mossavat

Concurrent Session IV – 8:30 - 9:30 AM  
NCES Summer Conference, Bethesda, MD  
July 31, 2008

# Need for More Data

Education Stakeholders want access to more data to help them decide how best to operate and evaluate their schools. But not just any data!

- ❖ They want better, useful data that can be used to run their schools more efficiently;
- ❖ They want up-to-date information that permits them to compare school inputs, processes and outcomes; and
- ❖ They want longitudinal information that enables them to anticipate their schools' needs in the future.

# Need for More Data

In other words,

- ❖ They want the data to be useful, accurate, well-organized, and readily accessible to those who need to make decisions about the operation and management of their schools.
- ❖ They want the data to show trend, progress, or lack there-of.
- ❖ They want to have the ability to ask questions and play “what-if” scenarios with the data.
- ❖ They want easy-to-understand graphical format to display and convey comparative and longitudinal results.

# Decision Support System

A well-designed, comprehensive Decision Support System can accomplish such requirements.

- ❖ It will enable its users to make sense of their educational and accountability data;
- ❖ It can play an important role in analyzing school performance scores and pinpointing problem areas;
- ❖ It can support program improvement initiatives and policy decisions.

# Louisiana's Pilot Program

We are currently piloting EDSCOMM, a decision support software program from MMCS Consulting.

- ❖ We just finished with the first pilot group of 30 individuals from the central office and various school districts. The feedback and comments have been very positive.
- ❖ The group consensus can be summarized as follows:  
*"The software will greatly benefit us relative to evaluating the effectiveness of our programs and in identifying target improvements areas including professional development."*
- ❖ We will be conducting our second and final phase of the pilot program with mostly administrators from schools and districts starting in August.

# Overview of EDSCOMM Software as Implemented for the State of Louisiana

From a high level, the software provides three distinct functionalities:

1. Warehousing for Longitudinal Educational Data & Reports
  - The database contains close to 4,000,000 pieces of data elements (representing various aspects of the 1,500 schools in Louisiana) housed in a large SQL Server database comprised of 124 interconnected tables.
  - It contains six years of school, district, and state-level longitudinal data as published in our annual District Composite Reports.
  - It contains 15,000 Louisiana published accountability and educational reports – ready to be viewed, printed or downloaded. It also provides downloading capabilities for all data in Excel and MS Access formats.

# Overview of EDSCOMM Software as Implemented for the State of Louisiana (continued)

## 2. Selectable, Interactive Display of Comparative and Longitudinal Data

- Through very intuitive, easy-to-use navigational tools, the software allows users access to all stored information for viewing, comparison, and analysis.
- It displays approximately 54,000 fully formatted, annotated, colorful charts providing instantaneous access to information with appropriate comparisons at the school, district and state levels.
- The software also provides approximately 66,000 fully formatted longitudinal data tables for viewing and/or printing. All data tables provide appropriate comparative data within school, district, and state level results.

# Overview of EDSCOMM Software as Implemented for the State of Louisiana (continued)

## 3. Interactive Platform for Detailed, User-Driven Data Analysis and Comparison

- An important feature of this software is its powerful data analysis engine. Through its graphical point, click, and drop feature, it allows users, at a very detailed level of granularity, to select, filter and display the desired results from an array of educational indicators.
- The result from the selected schools or districts could immediately be correlated with various other indicators to determine potential impacting factors.
- All such detailed results could easily be viewed, printed or exported to fully formatted Excel documents for further analysis. Additionally, the analysis results could be saved in the software to be recalled or combined with other sets later.

## Sample Questions Answered by EDSCOMM Software in Just a Few Clicks

- ❖ I want to identify all elementary schools in the State that have a high-poverty student population (pct free/reduced lunch > 62%) which have received Louisiana Accountability Performance Label of “Three Stars” – higher than the State average.
- ❖ I want to see the student demographics for all these schools.
- ❖ Now, I want to see the student attendance results, teacher quality data (highly-qualified educator status and degree information) for all these schools.
- ❖ I also want to see all such information for the selected schools from the last four years.
- ❖ I want to store the selected schools within the software for later analysis.
- ❖ I want to download the entire result as an Excel file for additional analysis.

## Sample Questions Answered by EDSCOMM Software in Just a Few Clicks

- ❖ I want to know what factors are contributing to a school for having high test scores.
- ❖ I want to know how schools from affluent areas compare with schools in high poverty areas.
- ❖ I want to identify all high minority schools that perform better than schools with low minority students.
- ❖ I want to know if there is a link between teacher salary and student performance – also with teacher education and student performance.
- ❖ What do successful principals say in terms of their best practices and ideas that have made them successful?
- ❖ Do schools with poor academic results also have high suspension and expulsion rates? What about attendance?

# Sample Screens from EDSCOMM Software

## Louisiana Education Network

*Education and Accountability Results at Your Finger Tips*



### User Login

Login ID:

Password:

Login

Welcome to a wealth of information about Louisiana educational performance and accountability results. This site has been developed to be used as an intelligent, interactive vehicle to help the general public, educators, and policymakers to be informed and stay involved in the Louisiana school, district, and state accountability system. It provides access to quality, timely, useful, and easy-to-understand information. It also allows for data searches, selection of questions and queries as well as comparative analysis.

Through this informative site, you can access and view specific accountability and other educational outcome about a specific school, district, or the State as a whole. You can also view and download the official Louisiana accountability reports such as the parent report cards, Principal report cards, district report cards, subgroup component performance results, and many others.

**This software has been developed for Internet Explorer 6.0 and higher. Other browsers are not supported and may cause errors.**



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IT Solutions for Education  
[www.mmcsconsulting.com](http://www.mmcsconsulting.com)



# Sample Screens from EDSCOMM Software

**Louisiana Education Network**  
*Education and Accountability Results at Your Finger Tips*

WELCOME, SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

[Reference Guide \(PDF\)](#) [View Profile](#) [Log Out](#)

<b>Admin</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Published Reports</b>	<b>Glossary</b>
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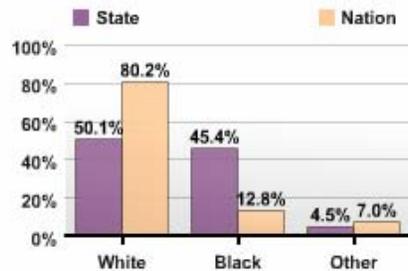
## State-level Essential Facts (School Year 2006-2007)

<b>Number of School Districts:</b> 68	<b>Number of Faculty:</b> 51,645	<b>2005-06 Per Pupil Revenues:</b> \$10,253
<b>Number of Schools:</b> 1,447	<b>Number of Students:</b> 675,851	<b>2005-06 Per Pupil Expenditures:</b> \$8,434
		<b>2005-06 Average Teacher Salary:</b> \$40,029

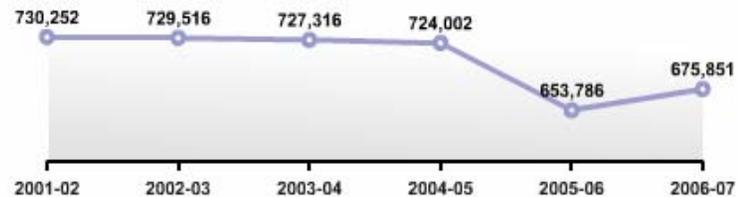
[Compare and Analyze Student Demographics](#)

[View Longitudinal Data](#)

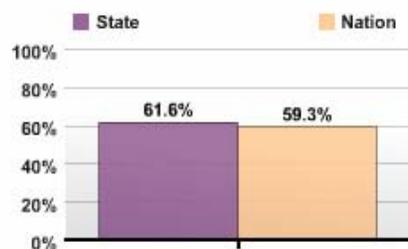
### Student Population by Ethnicity



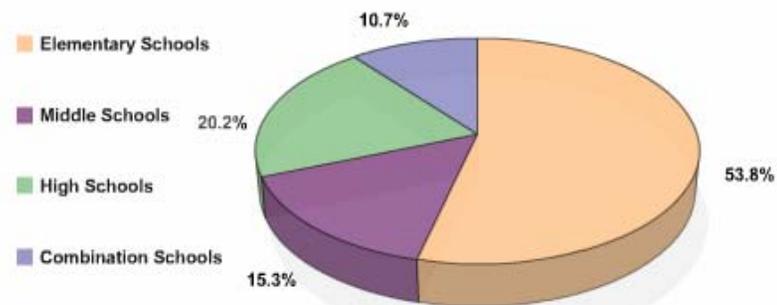
### Student Population Trend



### Percent of Students Participating in the Free/Reduced Lunch Program



### Breakdown of Schools by Type



# Sample Screens from EDSCOMM Software

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<b>Admin</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Published Reports</b>	<b>Glossary</b>
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## 2006-2007 State-level Assessment Results for LEAP Grade 4 Percent of Students Scoring at Each Achievement Level

[Compare and Analyze Assessment Results](#)

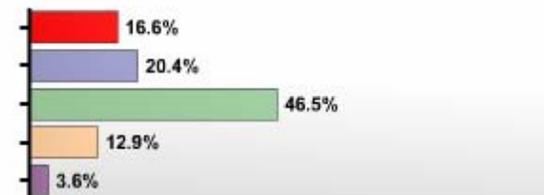
[View Longitudinal Data](#)

Advanced    Mastery    Basic    Approaching Basic    Unsatisfactory

### English Language Arts

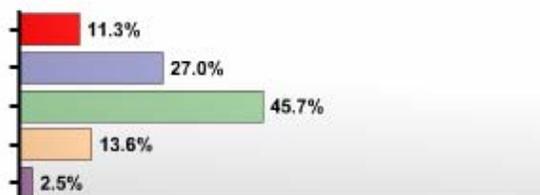


### Mathematics



**More Info**

### Science



### Social Studies



# Sample Screens from EDSCOMM Software

**Louisiana Education Network**  
Education and Accountability Results at Your Finger Tips

WELCOME, SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR  
052 - St. Tammany Parish

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### District-level Financial Profile

[Compare and Analyze Financial Profile Data](#) [View Longitudinal Data](#)

#### Total District Revenue

Year	Total District Revenue
2001-02	\$258,741,438
2002-03	\$276,291,250
2003-04	\$296,510,213
2004-05	\$319,965,972
2005-06	\$434,897,084

#### Revenues/Expenditures Per Pupil

Year	Expenditures	Revenues
2001-02	~\$7,500	~\$8,000
2002-03	~\$7,800	~\$8,200
2003-04	~\$8,000	~\$8,500
2004-05	~\$8,500	~\$9,000
2005-06	~\$9,500	~\$13,000

#### Revenues by Source

Year	Federal (%)	Local (%)	State (%)
2001-02	7.0%	42.2%	50.3%
2002-03	8.3%	41.1%	50.6%
2003-04	8.6%	41.7%	49.8%
2004-05	8.2%	42.8%	49.0%
2005-06	24.9%	38.3%	37.2%

# Sample Screens from EDSCOMM Software

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052 - St. Tammany Parish

052012 - Covington Elementary School (PK, K-3)

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**Admin**   **Analysis**   **State**   **District**   **School**   **Published Reports**   **Glossary**

## School-level Essential Facts (School Year 2006-2007)

Louisiana Education Network - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.laaccountability.net/GoogleMap.aspx?SchoolID=052012&ZipCode=&Miles=5&SiteCatCode=

**Key:**   Selected School   Elementary Schools   Middle Schools   High Schools   Combination Schools

Map   Satellite   Hybrid

**View School List**

Show schools of type:

Within a radius of:

[Store Results:](#)

- [Abita Springs Elementary School \(PK, K-3\)](#)
- [Abita Springs Middle School \(4-6\)](#)
- [Covington Elementary School \(PK, K-3\)](#)**
- [Covington High School \(9-12\)](#)
- [Covington Pathways School \(K-12\)](#)
- [Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Cntr. \(3-12\)](#)
- [Madisonville Elementary School \(PK, K-3\)](#)
- [William Pitcher Junior High School \(7-8\)](#)

Map data ©2008 LeadDog Consulting, Tele Atlas - [Terms of Use](#)

55  
504  
18.7%  
1.6%  
1.8%

Compare

Final Data

# Sample Screens from EDSCOMM Software

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**Admin**   **Analysis**   **State**   **District**   **School**   **Published Reports**   **Glossary**

- School-level Data
- District and State-level Data
- Longitudinal Analysis

- Student Demographics
- Accountability
- Student Participation
- Assessment Results
- Subgroup Achievement Results
- District and State Characteristics
- College Readiness
- Financial Profile

- Attendance
- Dropout
- Discipline
- Retention

[Compare and Analyze](#)

[View Longitudinal](#)

Subgroup Achievement Results for Math (2006-2007)

Subgroup Name	Unsatisfactory		Approaching Basic		Basic		Mastery		Advanced	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All Students	47,227	18.9	65,873	19.9	145,953	44.1	39,478	11.9	16,941	5.1
African American/Black	31,781	30.2	37,911	25.6	55,150	37.3	8,036	5.4	2,105	1.4
American Indian/Native Alaskan	309	16.0	579	21.6	1,285	47.9	293	10.9	97	3.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	352	6.4	504	10.8	2,042	43.9	969	20.9	834	17.9
Hispanic	1,447	19.9	1,559	20.0	3,456	44.3	892	11.4	350	4.5
White	13,296	7.9	25,307	15.1	83,999	50.0	29,285	17.4	13,555	8.1
Students with Disabilities	17,277	42.3	9,364	22.9	10,166	24.9	2,200	5.4	838	2.0
Students without Disabilities	29,950	10.3	56,509	19.5	135,787	46.8	37,278	12.9	16,103	5.6
Limited English Proficiency	1,385	24.5	1,322	23.3	2,160	38.1	651	11.5	144	2.5
Economically Disadvantaged	38,661	18.5	59,311	28.4	86,318	41.4	21,298	10.2	2,953	1.4
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	8,418	6.9	20,038	16.4	57,113	46.8	29,412	24.1	7,026	5.8
Migrant	243	18.4	389	29.4	541	40.9	139	10.5	10	0.8
Male	30,416	18.2	42,993	25.7	68,021	40.7	21,784	13.0	3,910	2.3
Female	16,753	10.2	36,394	22.2	75,462	46.1	28,937	17.7	6,070	3.7

Subgroup Achievement Results for Math

Subgroup Name	Unsatisfactory		Approaching Basic		Basic		Mastery		Advanced	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
All Students	62,618	18.9	65,873	19.9	145,953	44.1	39,478	11.9	16,941	5.1
African American/Black	44,607	30.2	37,911	25.6	55,150	37.3	8,036	5.4	2,105	1.4
American Indian/Native Alaskan	428	16.0	579	21.6	1,285	47.9	293	10.9	97	3.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	298	6.4	504	10.8	2,042	43.9	969	20.9	834	17.9
Hispanic	1,550	19.9	1,559	20.0	3,456	44.3	892	11.4	350	4.5
White	15,702	9.4	25,307	15.1	83,999	50.0	29,285	17.4	13,555	8.1
Students with Disabilities	18,322	44.8	9,364	22.9	10,166	24.9	2,200	5.4	838	2.0
Students without Disabilities	44,296	15.3	56,509	19.5	135,787	46.8	37,278	12.9	16,103	5.6
Limited English Proficiency	1,323	23.3	1,046	18.5	2,342	41.3	634	11.2	322	5.7
Economically Disadvantaged	51,150	24.5	49,177	23.6	86,856	41.7	16,460	7.9	4,892	2.3

# Sample Screens from EDSCOMM Software

**School-level Student Demographic Data (School Year 2006-2007)**

[\(?\) Quick Help](#)

Select School Year: 2006-2007

**Data Elements to be Displayed - Select Groups of Columns to be Displayed for Search Results**

**Available Items:**

- District Information
- School Information
- % White
- % Black
- % Other
- % Free/ Reduced Lunch

**Items to Display:**

- School Information
- % White
- % Black
- % Other
- % Free/ Reduced Lunch

[View Detailed Data Items Contained Within Each Data Element](#)

**Selection of School Records to Display**

**Available Schools:**

District:

Category:

- Abta Springs Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Abta Springs Middle School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Alton Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Bayou Lacombe Middle School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Bayou Woods Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Bonne Ecole Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Carolyn Park Middle School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Chahta-Ima Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Covington Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Cypress Cove Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- E. E. Lyon Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Fifth Ward Junior High School (St. Tammany Parish)

**Schools to Show:** 31

- Abta Springs Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Abta Springs Middle School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Alton Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Bayou Lacombe Middle School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Bayou Woods Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Bonne Ecole Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Carolyn Park Middle School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Chahta-Ima Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Covington Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Cypress Cove Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- E. E. Lyon Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Fifth Ward Junior High School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Florida Avenue Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Folsom Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Glynn H. Brock Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)
- Honey Island Elementary School (St. Tammany Parish)

[Clear All Stored School Listings](#)      [Store Selected Schools](#)      [Retrieve Stored Schools](#)

**Advanced Filtering - Specify Acceptable Values for Desired Data Elements**

**School Information**

School Enrollment:  And

Location Setting:

# Sample Screens from EDSCOMM Software

