

January 15, 2025

Annual Infrastructure Report



Department of Education

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Statewide Student Data Warehouse

The Department of Education (Department) uses the Technology Reinvestment Fund (TRF) allocation to support essential data reporting and analytical systems. These systems are used not only to meet both the Department's state and federal reporting requirements, but also to provide statewide reporting for Iowa school districts across a number of critical performance measures. Funding from this project covers a portion of the cost of the infrastructure for analysis and reporting which supports multiple applications.

Funds from the TRF are used to maintain and expand reporting capacity to answer critical policy questions that support state goals. The Iowa School Performance Profiles (ISPP) site (<https://www.iaschoolperformance.gov>) and the Iowa Postsecondary Readiness Reports (IPRR) (<https://reports.educateiowa.gov/postsecondaryreadiness>) source data comes from the infrastructure funded by TRF. Funds from the TRF contribute to a statewide application that supports a secure real-time collection system that allows the Department to collect information once and reuse across the infrastructure, which decreases duplication and data collection burden.

The ISPP website supports both the public reporting required by the Every Student Succeeds Act as well as state requirements outlined in the Attendance Center Performance Ranking state legislation. The IPRR website is a collaboration among the Department of Education, community colleges, Iowa Board of Regents, and Iowa Workforce Development. There is a public and secured version of IPRR. This website provides feedback to education stakeholders about the readiness of Iowa students for educational success after high school. This information allows schools to examine current practices in order to increase student postsecondary preparedness. These reports also help inform the State Board of Education's goal to "provide all students with multiple pathways for postsecondary success through high-quality career and academic programs and planning."

Lastly, the TRF allocation supports the Department's EdInsight platform. EdInsight is a statewide analytical application which provides important data and reports to Iowa education stakeholders. This platform is designed to empower educators by providing access to data for trend and comparison analyses. A series of education metrics are available to assist in answering key questions like "have the students in my district/school seen an increase in performance over time" or "how does my district/school performance compare to other districts/schools like mine."

EdInsight currently contains 20 years of longitudinal data that can be used to analyze impact and evaluate education outcomes over time. Education stakeholders are able to examine student achievement data spanning multiple cohorts of students from kindergarten through grade 12. Additional data sets provide robust information for analytical investigation, including curriculum data, dropout and graduation rates, and staffing. This platform is also used to provide information that is part of the annual school improvement reviews and school accreditation. No other data system in Iowa provides this comprehensive information, and it does it in a way that saves time for school districts.

To date, thousands of stakeholders, including district superintendents, building principals, curriculum directors, AEA consultants, and school improvement leaders, have access to EdInsight. Thousands of reports are run by users for data-based decision making.

The state's investment in EdInsight has allowed the Department to receive over \$19 million in competitive federal grant funds from the Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (SLDS) grant program. In March 2020, the Department received a \$3.5 million SLDS award to expand

its data, reporting and analytical capacity. In October 2023, the Department received an additional \$3.9 million SLDS grant award from the US Department of Education. Funding from this grant has assisted in building the Iowa e-transcript Gateway which is a joint project with the Iowa Board of Regents. The Iowa e-transcript Gateway will facilitate college enrollment for students in community colleges and Regent Universities.

Project Financials

The annual operating cost, including all ongoing licensing and fees, is over \$1 million. This obligation will be covered by the \$600,000 appropriation through the TRF and supplemented with other Department funds. Ongoing annual expenses related to this project exceed the TRF funding allocation. All expenses are for licensing and maintenance expenses used for ongoing operation.

Amount of Funds Expended:

Funds were expended in fiscal year 2024. Funds have been fully obligated for fiscal year 2025. The majority of these costs pay for maintenance agreements that are required to continue operating the platform. By the end of the fiscal year, funds will have been expended to pay for maintenance and support agreements.

Amount of Funds Obligated:

The entire amount is obligated for ongoing expenses related to the operation of this system.

Date of Project Completion or Estimated Completion:

Funding provided through TRF covers ongoing maintenance and annual costs. The system is operational. The Department continues to work on rollout and expansion.

ICN Part III Leases and Maintenance

When the ICN Part III legislation was passed, the General Assembly wanted the Part III circuits to be leased from local companies and not owned by the state. The approximately 53 K-12 schools that were Part II sites had state-owned circuits which meant there were no lease costs involved for these sites. To avoid creating an inconsistency in how access to services was funded, the General Assembly determined that the 428 Part III sites should not have to pay for annual lease costs either. To address this issue, they appropriated \$2,727,000 to the Department of Education to support these costs.

The actual annual lease costs of the Part III circuits exceed the \$2,727,000 appropriation to the Department of Education, but the Department uses these funds as a match to qualify the state for Federal Communications Commission USF E-rate funds, which help to pay the remaining cost of the Part III circuit leases.

With the \$2,727,000 Part III appropriation, the state realizes revenues from the E-Rate fund which would not be possible without the “match” it creates. Additionally, the state does not have to find other resources to pay the lease costs to local companies.

The Department of Education annually bids the process of leasing, billing and maintenance each year. The Iowa Communications Network has been the contract awardee.

Project Financials

Ongoing annual expenses and data related to Part III circuits and maintenance are as follows:

- FY 2019 - \$3,374,150 reflecting service to 348 K-12 schools and 35 public libraries
- FY 2020 - \$3,326,407 reflecting service to 341 K-12 schools and 33 public libraries
- FY 2021 - \$2,954,573 reflecting service to 328 K-12 schools and 23 public libraries
- FY 2022 - \$2,921,476 reflecting service to 328 K-12 schools and 23 public libraries
- FY 2023 - \$2,921,476 reflecting service to 328 K-12 schools and 23 public libraries
- FY 2024 - \$2,909,018 reflecting service to 318 K-12 schools and 23 public libraries
- FY2025 Agreement estimates \$2,914,244 reflecting service to 313 K-12 schools and 23 public libraries

List of all revenue sources used:

- State appropriation - \$2,727,000
- Federal E-Rate funds

Amount of Funds Expended:

All appropriation funds were expended in each fiscal year of the appropriation.

Amount of Funds Obligated:

The entire amount of funding is obligated through a RFP process each year.

Date of Project Completion or Estimated Completion:

The Part III sites are in place. This funding provides for ongoing costs related to leases with private local companies and maintenance.