

Project: Statewide Student Data Warehouse

Description of the Work

The Department of Education (DE) uses the Technology Reinvestment Fund (TRF) allocation to support critical 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.

Funds provided through this allocation stream are used to maintain and expand reporting capacity to answer critical policy questions that support state goals. Most recently, the Department rolled out the Iowa Postsecondary Readiness Reports in collaboration with Community College and Iowa Board of Regents. This website provides feedback to education stakeholders about the readiness of students beyond high school. This information allows schools to begin to examine current practices in order to increase student post-secondary preparedness. These reports help inform the State Board of Education’s goal that “Individuals will pursue post-secondary readiness in order to drive economic success.” In addition, this project directly supports the Future Ready Iowa Governor’s goal of 70 percent of Iowans with a postsecondary degree or industry recognized credential by 2025.

This allocation also supports the Department 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 trends and comparisons. A series of education metrics assist in answering key questions like “what is working” and “how do I compare to other schools and districts.”

EdInsight currently contains thirteen years of longitudinal data that can be used to gauge impact and assess outcomes over time. Education stakeholders are able to examine student achievement data spanning an entire decade. Additional data sets provide robust information for analytical investigation, including curriculum data, dropout and graduation rates, equity and staffing.

This platform is also used to provide information for the annual school improvement and accreditation process across Iowa. No other system in Iowa provides this comprehensive information, and it does it in a way that saves time for school districts and Area Education Agencies (AEAs).

“EdInsight will save literally hundreds of hours cumulatively for our AEA over the course of the year. Time spent building and distributing reports can now be used for analysis and action.”

*– Jon McKenzie, Director of Assessment
AEA 267*

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

The state's investment in EdInsight has allowed the DE to receive \$12.6 million in federal grant funds to date. These grants have expired, but there are plans for future grant completions. This infrastructure is critical to make Iowa competitive for future grant competitions. The DE continually works to expand the reporting and data that are available.

Total Estimated Cost of Project

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

Revenue Sources Used

TRF – \$600,000

Amount of Funds Expended

Funds were expended in fiscal year 2017. Funds have been fully obligated for fiscal year 2018. The majority of these costs go to 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 the various 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 the TRF covers ongoing maintenance and annual costs. The Department continues to work on rollout and expansion.

Description of Project – 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 are Part II sites had state-owned circuits which meant there were no lease costs involved for these sites. To avoid creating an equity issue, 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 exceeds 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.

Progress on Work

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

Total Estimated Cost of the Project

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

FY 2009 - \$3,196,748 reflecting service to 346 K-12 schools and 45 public libraries

FY 2010 - \$3,213,625 reflecting service to 384 K-12 schools and 50 public libraries

FY 2011 - \$3,264,065 reflecting service to 410 K-12 schools and 45 public libraries

FY 2012 - \$3,308,250 reflecting service to 408 K-12 schools and 45 public libraries

FY 2013 - \$3,356,807 reflecting service to 404 K-12 schools and 44 public libraries

FY 2014 - \$3,350,000 reflecting service to 404 K-12 schools and 44 public libraries

FY 2015 - \$3,328,208 reflecting service to 384 K-12 schools and 44 public libraries

FY 2016-\$3,537,018 reflecting service to 372 K-12 schools and 44 public libraries

FY 2017-\$3,440,813 reflecting service to 354 K-12 schools and 44 public libraries

FY 2018 – 3,403,401 reflecting service to 357 K-12 schools and 38 public libraries

List of all revenue sources used

Appropriation - \$2,727,000

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 an 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.