Statewide Education Data Warehouse

Purpose and History

Appropriations are made from the infrastructure budget to the Department of Education for a statewide education data warehouse that is used in conjunction with systemwide improvements for educational resources and accessibility of the resources.

The data warehouse, known as EdInsight, is intended to create a combined education information system for teachers, parents, administrators, Area Education Agency (AEA) staff, Department of Education staff, and policymakers. The purpose is to facilitate the flow of student data between Iowa high schools and postsecondary institutions nationally as well as between postsecondary institutions across the country, and to facilitate the flow of student data among Iowa school districts. EdInsight provides AEAs, school districts, and stakeholders with the tools to evaluate individual students and group performance over time. For example, statewide testing information is available beginning with the 2004-2005 school year. In addition, the Department of Education uses the funds from this appropriation for its eTranscript data system and for the development of a permanent transcript repository for student records.

The General Assembly provides language in the appropriation to allow the multiuse of the appropriation because the data warehouse and the electronic transcript and student record project are all components of a state longitudinal data system that provides the ability to track students throughout their education via interconnectivity with multiple schools. The Iowa Department of Education received a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences to design and implement the longitudinal data system. The goal behind the federal Statewide Longitudinal Data System Grant Program is to enhance the ability of states, districts, schools, and other stakeholders to make data-driven decisions that help improve student learning as well as facilitate research to increase student achievement and close achievement gaps.

State Funding

Funding for the data warehouse began in FY 2008. During the 2007 Legislative Session, the General Assembly enacted SF 588 (FY 2008 Education Appropriations Act) and HF 911 (FY 2008 Infrastructure Appropriations Act) that appropriated $400,000 from the General Fund and $600,000 from the Technology Reinvestment Fund, respectively.

Appropriations since that time have been from the Technology Reinvestment Fund and the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund. Costs for operation of the system, including ongoing licensing and fees, are approximately $1.0 million annually. In total, the Department has received $5.8 million from FY 2008 to FY 2016, an average of $644,000 per year.

Related Statutes

Iowa Code chapter 256

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More Information

Iowa Department of Education: http://educateiowa.gov/

Iowa General Assembly: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx

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