

Project: Statewide Student Data Warehouse

Description of the Work

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 several 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.

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 system from HF215. The IPRR website is a collaboration between community colleges, Iowa Board of Regents, Iowa Workforce Development and Iowa Area Education Agencies. There is a public and secured version of IPRR. This website provides feedback to education stakeholders about the readiness of Iowa students for education success after high school. This information allows schools to examine current practices in order to increase student post-secondary preparedness. These reports also help inform the State Board of Education's goal that "Individuals will pursue postsecondary readiness in order to drive economic success." In addition, the IPRR directly supports the Future Ready Iowa Governor's goal of 70 percent of Iowans with a postsecondary degree or industry recognized credential by 2025.

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 had performance increase over time" or "how does my district/school performance compare to other districts/schools like mine."

EdInsight currently contains 15 years of longitudinal data that can be used to analyze impact and evaluate 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 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 and AEA's.

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

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 TRF funding allocation. All expenses are for licensing and maintenance expenses used for ongoing operation.

“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

Revenue Sources Used

TRF – \$600,000

Amount of Funds Expended

Funds were expended in fiscal year 2020. Funds have been fully obligated for FY21. 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 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.

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 each year. 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 438 K-12 schools and 44 public libraries

FY 2016 - \$3,537,018 reflecting service to 375 K-12 schools and 41 public libraries

FY 2017 - \$3,440,814 reflecting service to 360 K-12 schools and 39 public libraries

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

FY 2019 - \$3,431,391 reflecting service to 348 K-12 schools and 35 public libraries

FY 2020 - \$3,341,734 reflecting service to 341 K-12 schools and 33 public libraries

FY 2021 - \$2,941,383 reflecting service to 328 K-12 schools and 23 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.