

EIMAC General Statistics Permanent Standing Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC

5:30pm to 8:30pm

Meeting Summary

Attendees

Ross Santy (ED), Bobbi Stetner-Eaton (ED), Barbara Timm (ED), Pat Sherrill (ED), Ana Echemendia (Perot Systems), Bob Beecham (NE), Challis Breithaupt (MD), Robert Curtin (MA), Sonya Edwards (CA), Doug Kosty (OR), Daryl Landavazo (NM), Robert McGrath (PA), Tom Ogle (MO), Madalyn Quinlan (MT), Gary Waugh (OH), Deborah Newby (CCSSO), and Amanda Miller (CCSSO)

Opening and Introductions

Vice-Chair Bob Beecham opened the meeting and facilitated introductions among meeting participants. Three new Task Force members were welcomed: Challis Breithaupt, Daryl Landavazo, and Gary Waugh.

General EDFacts Updates

The 60-day Office of Management and Budget (OMB) comment period is closed for posting comments concerning the proposed EDFacts data set for 07-08. In all, 14 entities commented with more than 300 comments posted. As a result of reviewing the comments, a few changes will probably be made to the proposed collection. States should check Attachment C of the final proposal, as it will show the data groups and provide information on why the data is being collected.

EDFacts 07-08 and CSRP 06-07 are both going into the final 30 days of OMB clearance. It is expected that the 30 days will begin August 1, 2007 and close September 1, 2007.

The 06-07 CSRP is due out in November, 2007. CSRP collection closes December 21, 2007 and will reopen January 2, 2008 through February 1, 2008.

The Title III biennial report is being subsumed into CSRP. OELA is being collected by the LEA consortium.

The CCD/EDFacts merger is continuing.

In the Office of Vocational and Adult Education/Perkins collection, some data is collected from states and other data is collected from districts.

One outcome of EDFacts: The centralization is forcing data governance conversations at national and state levels.

OCR Data Collection

Only a few states commented on the civil rights data collection in ED*Facts* 60 day's clearance period.

The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is going from sample data collection to universe data collection. There have been mixed feelings expressed on states providing data for districts through ED*Facts*. The transition from OCR to ED*Facts* is happening because there is a wish to end the dual nature of the data collection systems. Officials do not want State Education Agencies (SEAs) to submit some data, and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to submit the same data. Oftentimes the data does not match exactly, so officials only want one source of data per data group.

An NCES Forum OCR Working Group will be formed to work with staff in the OCR. ED staff expressed confidence that OCR staff are interested in an open dialogue with the states.

Officials will carry out a hybrid approach to OCR collections; collecting some data from states while other data will come from districts. A transition model is needed to make the OCR collection process better.

Institutionalizing ED*Facts*

Task Force members asked about efforts to institutionalize ED*Facts* prior to the administration change in January 09. ED staff said that in order to institutionalize ED*Facts* within USED, there is a need for program offices to value it and understand its impact on good management and helping to make better policy decisions. The career staff will need to sustain ED*Facts* after the administration change. The collection process needs to be fed through office staff to ensure its continuance. It is still a challenge to (1) get the required ED*Facts* data and (2) get program offices to use the data. USED is continuing to expand the system for use by program offices. It is crucial that these program offices use it. USED will have data marts located off of data warehouses that are specific to program offices. There is a need to grow data program expertise within each of the program offices.

State Needs

States want: (1) to know what queries program offices will run on their data; (2) to see which of their data program offices are looking at; and (3) to see other states data.

The problem with access to the ED*Facts* system is the number of COGNOS licenses available – ED only has 60. So far, each state only has one licensed username; this makes it difficult for the data to actually be used for something. USED is looking to increase the number of licensees available.

States would like ED to share ED*Facts* data with other national data collectors, through the State Education Data Center (SEDC). Two issues exist with ED*Facts* data sharing with SEDC. The first one deals with Section 515 – Data Quality guidelines. USED is not able to share the data it collects with other entities if it cannot vouch for data quality. General Counsel will likely approve releasing data if states provide a letter of authorization.

The second issue deals with cell size. In smaller states or districts where demographic data cells have small N sizes, it can lead to the identification of individual students. This issue will most likely

develop into agreements with states to use “N” size in accountability workbooks for cell suppression rules. The data will include a posting of each state’s “N” Size.

Once these two issues are officially resolved, the ED Facts data should be shared by the Fall of 2007.

ED Facts Training

Fall ED Facts Training is taking place October 22-24, 2007 in Los Angeles, CA. This meeting will take the form of a training session and not a policy meeting.

ED Facts Coordinator Position

ED is still working to get funding for an ED Facts Coordinator in each state. Task Force members suggested that an ED Facts Coordinator position should not exclusively be a computer programming position so much as someone who is able to reach across offices to identify and gather data. It should resemble more of a public relations and consulting role. The person needs to be a good project manager, who can track and resolve issues. The person must also have some authority so various program offices listen to their needs and requests.

State Updates

Massachusetts – The state continues to submit data to EDEN. The amount of time available for submitting data this year is more of an issue because there are many other state initiatives that are requiring the working time of data staff.

Pennsylvania – The state has created a good database to generate data, but is still in need of a strong coordinator. The state still has some work to do.

Oregon – Oregon received \$10M from the state legislature to expand its legacy Data Warehouse. They are using a non-federal growth model. The state also received an Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) grant. The state plans on using that money for a professional development data analysis tools and a data quality curriculum.

New Mexico – The state is 2 for 3 on submitting OSEP files. They started off slowly, but are expected to have the rest of their data in by end of the year.

Maryland – The IES SLDS grant received helps the state to carry out its data goals. The state now has program staff on board to help with the Title I data collections.

Ohio – The state is focusing their data collection on the CCD. They have yet to submit the required OSEP files. Ohio wants 07-08 specs as early as possible to ensure that their data are submitted as easily as possible.

Missouri – The state is carrying out the required data collection. There is still some data they just do not have and cannot provide. The state is working on the ED Facts data collection as ‘fill-in’ work since they are in between projects.

Montana – The state has found the ED*Facts* submission plan document helpful in organizing their work. The state found that an intermediary is needed between programmers and program personnel to ensure that work is completed smoothly. The state feels that the Education Technology questions (i.e. how many computers in schools) are no longer relevant and a waste of time.

California – The state has solicited proposals from vendors for CALPADS. The state has also hired a new entry-level data entry employee. Gwen Thomas is now working at the Data Governance Institute.

Nebraska – The state received an IES SLDS grant, however their State Legislature only gave them \$250K to complete any extra work associated with data collection.

Next Meeting

The task force will meet again on Monday, October 15, in Washington DC for a full-day meeting. The Special Education advisory group will join the task force for the afternoon portion of the meeting.