



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

Improve Education Financial and
Information Transparency: Government
Data Analytics Center Progress Report

S.L. 2017-57, Section 7.16.(f)

Date Due: September 15, 2017

Report # 005

DPI Chronological Schedule, 2017-2018

NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Mark Johnson, State Superintendent :: 301 N. Wilmington Street :: Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2825

In compliance with federal law, the NC Department of Public Instruction administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination issues should be directed to:

Maria Pitre-Martin, Ph.D., Deputy State Superintendent :: 6307 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6307
Phone: (919) 807-3759 :: Fax: (919) 807-4065

Visit us on the Web :: www.ncpublicschools.org

Background

S.L. 2017-57, Section 7.16 directed the State Superintendent to implement the School Business System Modernization Plan, to: (i) modernize State and local education financial, human capital, and school information systems, (ii) provide for a common reporting system and analytics system, (iii) integrate financial, payroll, human resources, and related human capital systems through the use of a new software as a service enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution, make enhancements to existing local systems, or both, and (iv) link the State licensure system with the upgraded local systems.

In regard to (ii), the State Superintendent was directed to work with the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at North Carolina State University, the Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC), and others to establish common data reporting requirements. The legislation directs the transfer of funds from DPI to GDAC to leverage existing public-private partnerships for the development and deployment of a data integration service that consolidates data from financial, human resources, licensure, student information, and related systems. Implementation shall also include development and deployment of a modern analytical platform and reporting environment. Prior to executing any contractual agreements and interagency data sharing agreements necessary, the State Superintendent shall submit to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division an initial report by September 15, 2017, on GDAC's progress.

Status Update

DPI staff and contractors have held multiple meetings with GDAC staff and contractors to establish the scope and action items for this project. Challenges identified include the use of manual processes to connect data from multiple systems, inconsistency in local practices, and the lack of easily digestible information and reports on key areas of interest.

The identified scope is multi-phased and includes both internal and external reporting, using existing data systems and modernized State and local systems once modernization is completed.

Phase 1 – Existing Data Systems: GDAC, in collaboration with private partners, will establish modernized versions of external reporting tools. The modern site will present data using contemporary data visualization techniques and will sit atop a data integration service that federates finance, HR, budget, and related data from existing authoritative sources. GDAC will:

- Provide modern reporting and visualization of existing data, from multiple sources, for external audiences.
- Improve and automate processes for integrating data from multiple current systems.
- Build a data integration service that creates views into the data in a variety of ways that underneath has a clean, efficient and comprehensive data foundation.

Phase 2 - Implement Circa 2020 Financial Planning and Support Services: A modern public school finance system should provide a robust environment for modeling, forecasting, reporting, and decision making. In order to implement the right services for 2020 and beyond, it is necessary to evaluate the business processes currently in place and to align those processes with the realities of the funding and compliance environment envisioned by the legislature. This work should both inform and be informed by the emerging Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform. This planning work will in turn redefine requirements for Uniform Education Reporting System (UERS) and will serve as the basis for defining the most effective support organization, tools, and services - so that we collect the right data at the right times and support the right people in making optimal decisions.

Next Steps

1. **Requirements:** DPI and GDAC will finalize detailed requirements for the project. These requirements will form the basis of a MOU. Target deadline: October 15.
2. **Documents:** DPI and GDAC will enter into a MOU, and GDAC will draft a contract amendment with its partner(s). Target deadline: November 1.