

Electronic state-wide IEP system/advisory group - June 2, 2008

Attendees:

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Wants for a new system:

- Customizable reporting
- Central DESE compliance contact for changes and updates
- Needs to have ability to transfer data to SIS, like a file download/upload process (would probably require IT support at district and/or DESE level)
- Must have vendor with expertise in state-wide systems
- Company must be responsive in making updates/changes to the system
- User level securities assigned at the district level
- Referral to Placement system
- Generates all forms
- Tracks Timelines
- Real-time
- Web-based
- Vendor has good IT support
- Administrative Reporting
- Make sure company is established enough and in a position for significant growth
- Clear, user-friendly system

Barriers:

- Ability to interface with local SIS
- Small districts with equipment issues
- State OA/IT process for awarding
- DESE staff resources/support
- Extent of on-going training
- Data housing
- Transition timelines
- Negative attitude from districts with so many new DESE systems: MOSIS, IMACS, ePeGS
- Variety of districts
- Time and money already invested by districts in current systems

Questions

1. Is there a need for this type of system and will it be utilized effectively?
2. Do we want our own system or can we mandate an export file structure that could be used to download/upload the data?
3. Build a Data warehouse or data management system?
4. Would DESE access be point-in- time or live updates?
5. Where to house data?
6. What components are critical in a state-wide system?
7. What components would be nice?
8. What problems exist now in current systems that we would need to be aware of in building this type of system?
9. How would the system be implemented?
10. Who would pay?
11. Who will maintain/host DESE/Vendor?
12. Capability of district to district transfer?

System Comparisons

Sped Track - \$3000 per year (vendor houses data) 725 students, Phyllis Wolfram

Positive	Negative
Quick to respond to updates	Reporting isn't good, can't customize as easily as district would like
Internal user securities	Doesn't interface with SIS, so 2 systems
Generates all forms	
Can see timelines	
Referral to Placement	

Netchemia - \$5000 per year (district houses data) 1500 students, Kim Bielawski

Positive	Negative
Real-time	Slow response to updates
Runs Smoothly	Needs in district IT/Netchemia liaison
Report capabilities, easily customizable, low error rate	
Talks with SIS with IT support	
Customized IEP capability	
Referral to Placement	
User level determined by district	

WebSet - WebSet houses data/ 1500 students, Lisa Helm

Positive	Negative
Was able to load in 5 years worth of data for historical back-up	Initial set-up customization was difficult
Has one contact person, so you are always speaking to the same person	Had equipment issues during initial start-up

Reporting good	Don't like page breaks for the documents
Documents are archived, so you don't have to start new	
All staff can access	
Talks with SIS	
Referral to Placement	

SEAS - \$100,000 set-up, \$50,000 to \$75,000 per year (SEAS houses data) 3000 students, Ben Franklin

Positive	Negative
Speaks with SIS with IT support nightly	Limited IT support for implementation
Customizable	Help desk has tech support, but is difficult to use
Includes forms	Not user friendly
Has report manager, but not yet set-up	PDF reporting issues
Referral to Placement	
Web-based	