



**News Release**

.....

**CELt Partners with CCSSO to Form Data Architecture Consortium  
Washington, DC**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
199 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752  
508-624-4474, ext. 1209  
fax: 508-624-6565  
Contact: Priscilla Ramsay  
e-mail: pramsay@celtcorp.com

**January 2004 - WASHINGTON, DC:** The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and CELt Corporation are partners in an unprecedented effort to provide state departments of education with a timely, cost-effective, and standards based decision support architecture that they and their local constituents can readily adopt and adapt for the unique needs of their state. To meet state and federal reporting and accountability demands, CCSSO and CELt are working with state departments of education and several national organizations in the Decision Support Architecture Consortium (DSAC) to assess, contrast, and compare current decision support research, design, and implementation activities at the state and local levels. The consortium's work will accelerate, upgrade, and improve the research, design, procurement, and implementation of a comprehensive web-based decision support system architecture that meets information management needs of government officials, school administrators, teachers, students, and parents in support of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning.

Many state departments have invested millions of dollars in decision support system technology in a piecemeal fashion as budgets permit. Those same state departments of education often have "islands of information" that are uncoordinated and inefficient. The Consortium offers its members technical assistance on the development of a high quality data architecture, the ability to group problem solve around cross state issues, and policy solutions that focus on the effectiveness of data systems in helping educators and policymakers address significant educational priorities, such as turning around low performing schools and improving student achievement.

In the first phase of this effort, CCSSO/CELt teams have worked with over twenty six state departments of education to assess their decision support capabilities. During that process, a library of system frameworks, specifications, RFP components, and best practices has emerged that will be available to each member state as they join the consortium. In the next phases of the DSAC offering, the Consortium will provide an array of project management services as well as nationally negotiated product and service discounts to participating member states. The consortium's ultimate goal is to enhance and support state decision support efforts and ensure positive outcomes and lower costs in the delivery of decision support systems.

**About CCSSO**

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the

states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues. The Council seeks member consensus on major educational issues and expresses their views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public.

For more information, visit [www.ccsso.org](http://www.ccsso.org) or contact Michael DiMaggio at 202-336-7024.

## **About CELT**

Working with the vision, mission, and goals of educational organizations, CELT Corporation, a leading systems integration provider, assists with the implementation of technology in support of contemporary educational reform initiatives.

Through the development and implementation of technology-based products and services, CELT Corporation works collaboratively with educational organizations to not only support but also transform 21st century teaching, learning, and management. CELT assists public and private learning organizations at all levels with the identification, procurement, implementation, training, and integration of information products and services. This is accomplished by working cooperatively with the organization's staff and community in conjunction with regional, national, and international information technology vendors.

CELT Corporation is one of the most comprehensive providers of research/planning services, systems integration programs, and Web-enabled decision support solutions. CELT's goal is to provide products and services of the highest quality in the most timely, efficient, and cost-effective way possible using the latest information technology architecture. For more information, visit [www.celtcorp.com](http://www.celtcorp.com)

###

## **About CELT**

CELT Corporation helps K-12 leaders develop and implement IT strategies and systems that truly align technology with the core mission of today's schools – achievement, accountability, and staff development. Founded in 1991 as the Center for Educational Leadership and Technology, CELT provides services to school districts, intermediate units, and state DOEs in the following areas: (1) technology planning, procurement, support, and project management/implementation; (2) decision support and accountability; (3) LearningSynergy<sup>®</sup> curriculum, instruction, and assessment management; and (4) school technology facilities design. CELT has served hundreds of school districts – including some of the largest in the country – and other education agencies across the U.S. as an “IT Architect” to help design, procure, integrate, and implement cohesive technology solutions across all facets of the K-12 enterprise. CELT's services are “vendor neutral,” integrating solutions by partnering with companies whose services, technology products and digital content best fit a school system's needs. CELT is headquartered outside of Boston in Marlborough, Massachusetts, has an additional full-service office in Michigan, and has additional staff and offices in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, New York/New Jersey, and Washington, D.C. For additional information, please visit <http://www.celcorp.com> or call Priscilla Ramsay at 800-362-CELT (2358).

###