



Announcing a series of White Papers from the Council of Chief State School Officers and CELT Corporation regarding Policy Making and the Practical Application of Data to Meet NCLB Requirements and Improve Learning.

To access these white papers, click on the Web site links under each abstract.

The Need for Quality Decision Support Architecture in K-12 Education

Prepared By

- Eliot Levinson, Ph.D
CEO, BLE Group

Abstract

Data-driven decision-making is easier said than done. Most school systems suffer from a myriad of organizational and technical problems, which block them from accessing and using data to illuminate teaching and learning decisions as well as demonstrate the capacity to monitor student achievement in real time.

Without accurate, timely, and easy-to-use data, it will be impossible to implement the “No Child Left Behind Act”. However, architecting effective data systems is a complex and costly task. While millions of dollars are being spent on reporting and data management systems, only a small amount is being allocated for the design of a decision support system that focuses on the needs of students, teachers, and parents.

This article outlines a process and approach for creating state-wide decision support and accountability systems. The author describes the benefits of using a three-phased approach that includes (a) statewide assessments (b) collaborative procurement and (c) implementation.

Web site:

<http://www.celtcorp.com/whitepapers/levinson03>

Data, Data, Everywhere: The Case for Data Architecture to Support State Decisions

Prepared By

- Dr. Joe Simpson, Deputy Director
Leadership and Professional Development
Council of Chief State School Officers
- Dr. John Phillippo, CEO, CELT Corporation
- Dr. Dale Mann, Managing Director
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Abstract

There is a growing opportunity and a gathering crisis in educational data—its management, analysis and reporting.

The opportunity springs from the range of data that states collect and the power those data have to illuminate decisions about schooling and teaching. The crisis derives from the lack of consistency among the sources of the data and the way they are technically managed.

For most states, existing systems are inadequate for current and future demands. The technology and vendor solutions exist but are not coordinated or integrated. The state data architecture project of the Council of Chief State School Officers and CELT Corporation directly addresses these multiple needs. This briefing paper alerts states to the problems and opportunities and documents current circumstances.

Web site:

<http://www.celtcorp.com/whitepapers/mann04>

Building a Consortial-based IT Solution: a Decision Support Architecture for State Education Agencies

Prepared By

Dr. Richard M. Kesner
President and COO, CELT Corporation

Abstract

Though the challenges of “No Child Left Behind” may be unique to public school systems across the United States, the Decision Support Architecture Consortium (DSAC) experience sheds light on how a low-cost, flexible model for collaboration and knowledge sharing may work in other settings.

The purpose of this white paper is to examine DSAC project design and delivery processes, the various roles and responsibilities of Consortium members and their IT partner providers, and the governance mechanisms and critical success factors associated with the effectiveness of DSAC operations.

Furthermore, for those readers with an entrepreneurial bent, the story of the Decision Support Architecture Consortium suggests any number of business opportunities for adapting DSAC findings into projects, products, and services of interest and value to the players in this diverse multi-billion dollar industry.

Web site:

<http://www.celtcorp.com/whitepapers/kesner04>

Decision Support Architecture Framework

Prepared by

DSAC Field Research Team

Abstract

This article describes a framework for Core Business Processes and Enabling Processes for effective architecture in state level decision support for improving and sustaining academic performance.

The research team describes how the Decision Support Architecture Consortium Project (DSAC) offers a collaborative, standards based, cost effective approach to defining and creating SEA student data systems. Beyond satisfying NCLB mandates, DSAC solutions define frameworks and platforms for the more effective use of system-wide data to improve student instruction, assessment and program resource utilization.

This paper describes how DSAC provides a customized assessment and plan to address the particular vision and needs for the state being studied. Where possible, DSAC will draw on open standards and efficiencies of scale and, where appropriate, create individualized resources to support each state’s distinct needs.

Web site:

<http://www.celtcorp.com/whitepapers/team04>

About CCSSO

CCSSO, through leadership, advocacy, and service, assists chief state school officers and their organizations in achieving the vision of an American education system that enables all children to succeed in school, work, and life.

<http://www.ccsso.org/>

About CELT

CELT 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.

<http://www.celtcorp.com/>

For more information about these white papers or the Decision Support Architecture Consortium, please contact: Dr. Richard Kesner, DSAC Project Director and President of CELT Corporation at 508-624-4474, ext. 1216.