

EIA Program Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12

Coversheet

EIA-Funded Program Name: EAA - Report Cards

Current Fiscal Year: 2011-12

Current EIA Appropriation: \$722,385

Name of Person Completing Survey and to whom EOC members may request additional information:

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Question 1: History of the program: Please mark the appropriate response (choose one):

This program:

- was an original initiative of the Education Improvement Act of 1984
- was created or implemented as part of the Education Accountability Act of 1998
- has been operational for less than five years
- was funded last fiscal year by general or other funds
- is a new program implemented for the first time in the current fiscal year
- Other

Question 2: What SC laws, including provisos in the current year's general appropriation act, govern the implementation of this program? Please complete citations from the SC Code of Laws including, Title, Chapter, and Section numbers.

Code of Laws:

Education Accountability Act of 1998 (as amended 2009)
H.4823: Joint Resolution

SC Code of Laws Section 59-18-900, 920, 930, 950

Proviso(s): (If applicable. Please make references to the 2011-12 General Appropriation Act as ratified. www.XXXXX)

N/A

Regulation(s):

N/A

Do guidelines that have been approved by the State Board of Education, the Commission on Higher Education or other governor board exist that govern the implementation of this program?

- Yes
- No

Question 3: What are the primary objective(s) or goals of this program? Please distinguish between the long-term mission of the program and the current annual objectives of the program. (The goals or objectives should be in terms that can be quantified, evaluated, and assessed.)

To publish school and district report cards.

Question 4: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, what primary program activities or processes were conducted to facilitate the program's performance in reaching the objective(s) as provided in Question 3? What, if any, change in processes or activities are planned for the current year?

Examples of program processes would be: training provided, recruiting efforts made, technical assistance services, monitoring services, etc.

Answers should be specific to the process undertaken at the state level to support the objectives of the program and should be quantifiable. Please include any professional development services provided.

IF the funds are allocated directly to school districts, please indicate any data collected at the state level to monitor how the funds are expended at the local level?

Data were collected for all data elements included on the report cards (approximately 1000 for each school report card and 1500 for the district report card). Data review periods were provided for schools and districts to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the data for each school. Summary data were collected and ratings were calculated. Report Cards were printed, distributed, and published on the Web for public access.

Question 5: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, and using the most recent data available, what were the direct products and services (outputs) delivered by this Program?

Examples of program outputs would be: number of teachers attending professional development seminars, number of and passage rates on AP exams, number of students served in the program, improvements in student achievement, retention and graduation.

Accountability report cards, containing descriptive information, state accountability results, and evaluative data were published for each school and district. Historical and current products can be reviewed at the following link:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/Accountability/Data-Management-and-Analysis/ReportCardPortal.html>.

Question 6: What are the outcomes or results of this program?

Outcome can be both quantitative and qualitative and should address the program's objectives. Please use the most recent data available:

Examples of outcomes would be: results of surveys, student achievement results, increases in participation, reduction in achievement gaps, loans awarded, textbooks purchased, etc.

School and district report cards were issued for the 2009-10 school year. Historical and current report cards can be accessed through the following link:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/Accountability/Data-Management-and-Analysis/ReportCardPortal.html>

Question 7: Program Evaluations

What was the date of the last external or internal evaluation of this program?

Has an evaluation ever been conducted?

Yes

No

If an evaluation was conducted, what were the results and primary recommendations of the most recent evaluation?

No formal evaluation has been conducted; however, annual review of our current process and changes to federal and state requirements have led and continue to lead to changes in the processes of data collection, review, and publication.

Can you provide a URL link, electronic version, or hard copy of this evaluation to the EOC?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide URL link here.

If no, why not?

There has been no formal review.

Question 8:

While EIA revenues increased in 2010-11 over the prior fiscal year and no mid-year cuts were made to any EIA programs, programs and agencies continue to implement conservative budget practices.

Please describe how the program and/or organization would absorb or offset potential EIA reductions totaling 5%, and 10% in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2011-12?

For the production and publication of accountability report cards (for both federal and state purposes), there are fixed costs tied to personnel and material resources. After the cuts from the previous year, there is little left that would be significant for additional cuts and still meet the demands of the program. The only significant cut available would involve the elimination of printed report cards with all report cards being published only to the web. This cut was implemented when the legislature suspended the printing of the 2009-2010 report cards.

It is possible that schools and districts may have seen an increase in their costs if a large number of parents or community members asked for printed copies of the 2009-10 report cards (which would be provided from the school level). Our review and documentation process can be changed; instead of requiring submission of documentation, we can require districts and schools to maintain the documentation locally (rather than sending it to SCDE) and our staff focus would be a random auditing process rather than a full review process every year.

Question 9:

If no additional EIA revenues were appropriated to this program in Fiscal Year 2012-13 above the current year's appropriation level, how would the objectives, activities and priorities of this program change?

Please be specific to address the impact to students, teachers or schools. Are there regulatory or statutory changes that you would recommend to the legislature that would assist this program/organization in meeting its objectives?

Due to budget cuts, SCDE staffing for accountability purposes has been reduced more than 40%.

Some tasks have been delayed due to lack of personnel resources to complete those tasks by mandated deadlines.

The remaining budgetary resources (for personnel and resources) are required if we are to meet the current statutory requirements.

If you want to provide supporting documents or evaluation reports, either reference a website below or email the report directly to mbarton@eoc.sc.gov.