

EIA Program Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12

Coversheet

EIA-Funded Program Name: Power School/Data Collection

Current Fiscal Year: 2011-12

Current EIA Appropriation: \$5,000,000

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:

- X** 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: Title 59. Education. Chapter 20 Education Finance Act. Section 40.

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

Regulation(s):

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
- X** 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.)

The South Carolina Department of Education funds the use of PowerSchool, a Student Information System, by all school districts and State Operated Programs. The goal of this program is to pay annual software maintenance fees and technical support for Student Information System (SIS) software and the Student Unique Numbering System (SUNS) infrastructure for schools/districts. The SIS system, currently PowerSchool, provides the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) with a data collection and reporting system from all public school districts to facilitate education accountability by providing a responsive data collection, storage, retrieval, and reporting system. The mission also includes support for SUNS which is the program to assign a unique identifier to each student in South Carolina. This ID is to follow the student throughout his/her K-12 career.

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?

During school year 2010-11 the SCDE conducted 4 quarterly data collections and seven additional data collections to meet a variety of data needs. In each case data was extracted from the SIS databases installed in all SC school districts and State Operated Programs. These collections were performed with the assistance of district technology staffs. The data collected was used to precode test answer sheets, help to calculate dropout and graduation rates, and to meet data requirements for accountability. During the 2011-12 school year the SC Department of Education's technology staff will be introducing entry level data edits into PowerSchool. The goal of this project is detect invalid data values in key field before they can be save in PowerSchool. This will improve the quality of the data collected by the SCDE.

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?

The SCDE staff of the Office of External Technology provides phone support to school districts to better enable districts to use PowerSchool properly. Funds from the PowerSchool/Data Collection program are also used to allow each school district to send to staff the PowerSchool University each year. PowerSchool University is a program offered annual by Pearson Data Solutions to provide extensive training on the features and use of PowerSchool. The

PowerSchool/Data Collection program also provides funding for district access to online training opportunities offered by Pearson Data Solutions.

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?

The data collected was used to precode test answer sheets, help to calculate dropout and graduation rates, and to meet data requirements for accountability. The data collected was also used to fulfill adhoc requests for data. Data collected from PowerSchool was also used to complete many data collection requirements set by the US Department of Eductaion.

In June of 2010 and again in June of 2011 208 district staff attended PowerSchool University in Charleston. Funding from this program paid the tuition fees for all these district staff.

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.

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

This program insures funding to continue to maintain both the district SIS and the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) infrastructure for all districts and the SCDE. SIF and eScholar's Uniq-ID are required to perform assignment of student identification numbers. This funding also helps to offset the cost of technical resources needed to carry out data collections at the state level. The PowerSchool/Data Collection program also provides the student and membership data used by the Office of Finance to calculate school and district funding.

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.

Question 7: Program Evaluations

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

There has been no external 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?

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?

We monitor data collections by tracking the increase or decrease in the number of errors detected in the data extracted from district PowerSchool database during the school year.

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?

Funding for training opportunities for school and district staff would be reduced. Annual maintenance of PowerSchool would take a higher priority since PowerSchool is used in all districts. Funding of annual maintenance of the Student Unique Numbering System would also have to be continued. However the funding of the license fees paid by the state to provide school districts with local use of the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) may have to be reduced or ended. School Districts would have to pick up this cost to continue using SIF locally.

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?

Since annual maintenance costs for PowerSchool are based on the number of students enrolled, a reduction in the funding for this program may impact the vendor support available to keep PowerSchool up to date. A reduction may also impact funds available to provide district and school staff with training on the proper operation and use of PowerSchool.

**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.**