Statewide
SIS RFI Outcomes

Presenters:

-Daniel French, Secretary of Education

-Bill Bates, CFO

-Wendy Geller, Director of Analysis and Data Management

-Kevin Viani, Director of Digital Services

-James Nadeau, Education Data Administrator

-Amanda Meredith, IT Project Manager

Moderators:

-Jill Briggs Campbell, COVID-19 Federal Emergency Funds Manager and CI Project Manager

-Bob Keeley, Education Data Division Director

-Ted Fisher, Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs

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Overview

- Where we were/are
- What the future vision is
- What we are doing differently
- What is an RFI and why we did one
- RFI results
- Where do we go from here?

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Historic Landscape

- Point to Point
- Reliance on Data Program Staff
- Labor Intensive
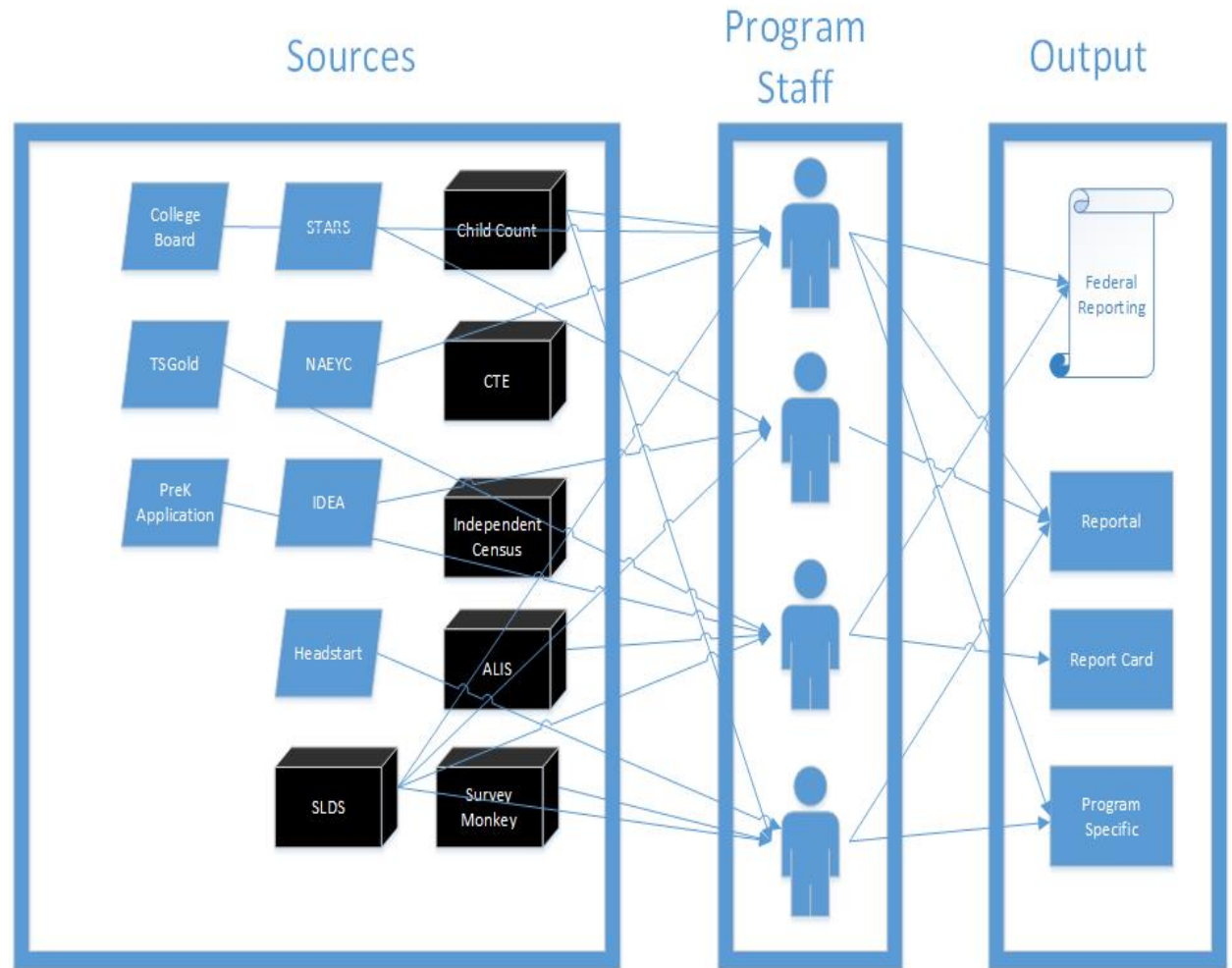
Current State

- Survey Results indicate:
    - Inequities in cost across multiple SIS vendors
    - Varied and inconsistent use of SIS features
- Long data paths with multiple touch points increases risk of data inaccuracies and costs (time, staff, skills, tools, etc.)

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Current State: Cost Variability

Per Student Cost Range: $3.36 - $11.27

% Used in VT	SIS Name
67%	PowerSchool
14%	Infinite Campus
6%	Alma
4%	MMS/VISION
4%	Tyler
4%	Web2School
2%	JumpRope

Current State: Variability in Usage

SIS Use	% Used in VT
Attendance	98%
Course Enrollments	94%
Student Registration	94%
Emergency Notifications Contact Information	92%
Family Contact Information	90%
Gradebook	86%
Report Card Generation	86%
Transcript Report Generation	86%
Behavior/Discipline Logging	76%
Student Alerts	75%
Scheduling Algorithms (e.g. PowerScheduler)	73%
Standards Based Grading	73%
Staff/Faculty/HR database	53%
Student Health Information	53%
School Lunch Tracking	49%
Assessment Scores archive	41%
Sped, ELL, Homeless, etc.	0%

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Current State: Variability in desired Add-on Features

% Used in VT	Add-on Features
29%	Alert System
23%	Enrollment/Registration
17%	Analytics
12%	Forms
13%	Scheduling
8%	Report Cards, Transcripts

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Future Vision

- Data Centric
- Resilient to Change
- Free Program Resources

Sources

- College Board
- STARS
- Child Count
- TSGold
- NAEYC
- CTE
- PreK Application
- IDEA
- Independent Census
- Headstart
- ALIS
- SLDS
- Survey Monkey

Process

Integration → Enterprise Data → DataMart

Output

- Federal Reporting
- Reportal
- Report Card
- Program Specific

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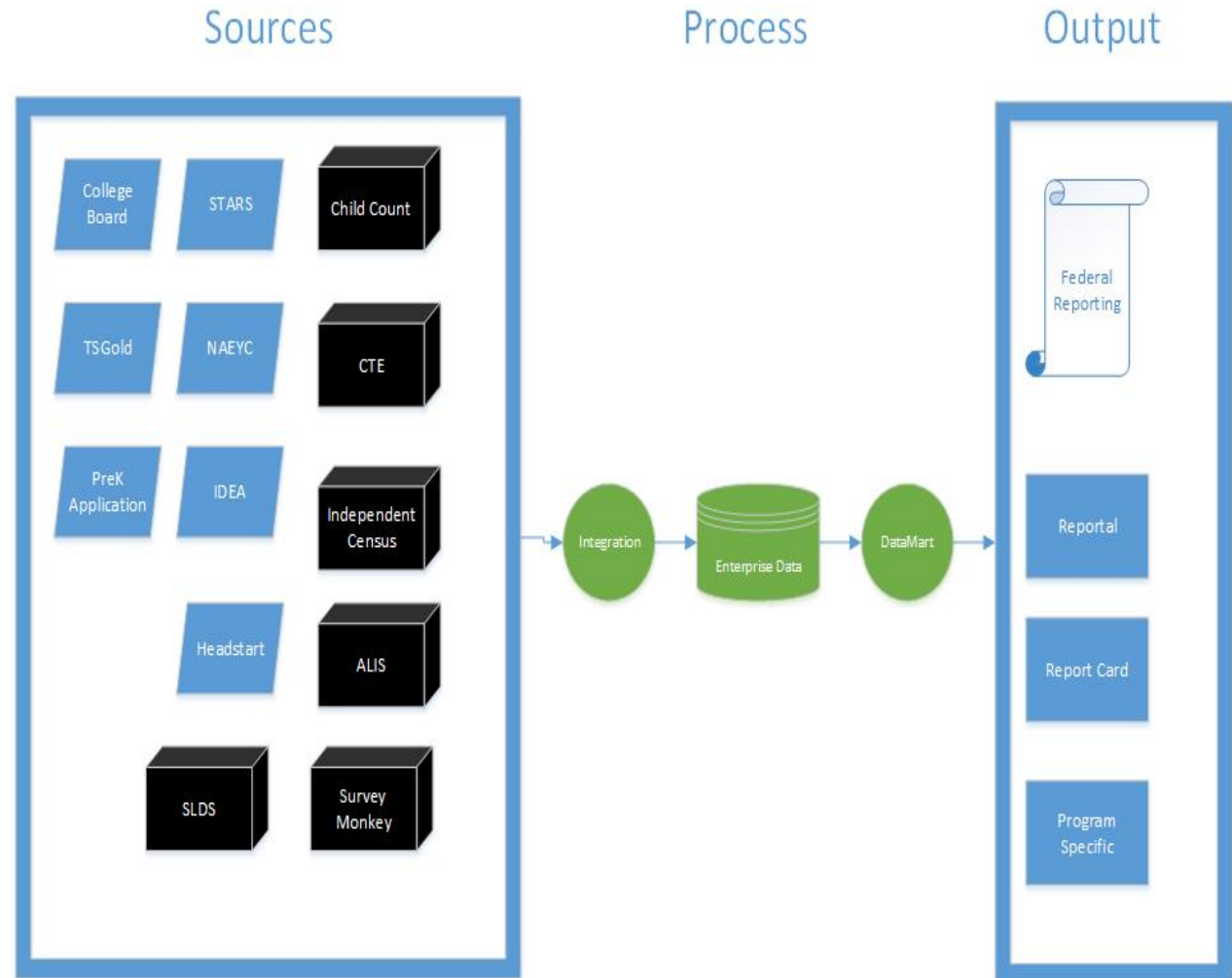
New Leadership – New Approach

[State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Lessons Learned](#):

- Priority areas to address:
  - Communication and Leadership
    - **Early communication and co-planning with districts**
  - Project Management (PM) Practices
    - **Ensure state PM support throughout project**
  - Infrastructure
    - **AOE enterprise data system vision**
  - Skills Gaps and Training Needs
    - **Dedicated FTEs for regular training and communication**

New Leadership – New Approach

State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Lessons Learned

Field Feedback:

Amidst these shared perspectives, one particularly concrete suggestion arose. In response to the survey question "What contributed to the challenges and do you have suggestions on how those challenges could have been avoided?" several participants asserted the need for a single, statewide Student Information System (SIS) to reduce the operational burden on both the districts as well as the state:

> [The biggest challenge was] [t]he absence of a single statewide SIS. This will continue into the future as an issue. The SISes will continue to evolve, and the SLDS will also evolve (as software does), but they will be along different tracks and occasionally we will need to shoe-horn things in. A single integrated system would be leaps and bounds more efficient and easier to support and will enforce the data consistency that is needed to really draw reliable and logical conclusions from the data collected.

New Leadership – New Approach

[State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Lessons Learned](#)

Field Feedback:

Another responded succinctly this way:

Question: What contributed to the challenges and do you have suggestions on how those challenges could have been avoided?

Response: One data system like other states.

Overview of Request for Information (RFI)

- Survey to stakeholders conducted in Late 2020 with 53 respondents

- Outreach to other states with SSIS already in operation: Montana and South Carolina

- Outreach to other states with alternate models (e.g., Ed-Fi implementations) – Wisconsin, New Hampshire

- AOE teams used this information and lessons learned from SLDS and SSDDMS to conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis of potential SSIS initiative

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RFI FINDINGS

- RFI was posted on April 13, 2020
- RFI Responses were due on May 11, 2020
- 9 Vendor Responses were received
- Cost range was vast, dependent upon selected modules (RFP would provide more accurate figures)

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RFI Responses

Bidder's name:	City/Town	State
CPSI LTD	Columbia	IL
eScholar LLC	White Plains	NY
Focus School Software	St Petersburg	FL
Follett School Solutions, Inc.	McHenry	IL
Alma	Portland	OR
Infinite Campus	Blaine	MN
Power School	Folsom	CA
Skyward Inc	Stevens Point	WI
Tyler Tech	Yarmouth	ME

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What is the role of an SIS?

- Handles non-longitudinal data necessary for the day-to-day operations of school system, e.g.
    - pupil and staff demographics,
    - attendance,
    - course taking,
    - grades,
    - assessment,
    - student discipline,
    - Etc.
- Can support vertical school and LEA required data reporting to the SEA
- Can provide shared record keeping standards to decrease complexity/burden for all

Options Considered

Option 1: Required SSIS

- Reduces:
    - costs *(not fiscal, they are staff time, skills, tools, opportunity costs, burden, etc.)*
    - burden
- Increases:
    - accuracy
    - ease of data reporting

Additional lift for LEAs and SEA during build out

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Options Considered

Option 2: Stand up AOE Operational Data Store with Ed-Fi API to LEA SISs (SSIS for LEAs without an SIS)
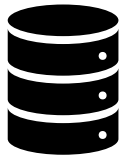
- Less expensive than SSIS

- Begins to address data integration needs

- In-house knowledge exists to implement with vendor support

- Does not address foundational data challenges or reduce burden on LEAs for required reporting
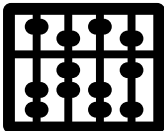
EdFi

Current

Future Vision

Your SIS

Export
Upload
Repeat

EdFi API
Automatic

EdFusion

Dashboard
Reports
Done

Verification
Reports

- Less work
- Real Time
- More Accurate

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Options Considered

Option 3: State Master Contracts with selected SIS Vendors

- Gradual transition to single contract management

- Does not standardize use nor improve data quality, no real reduction of current burden

Options Considered

Option 4: Do nothing

- Not introducing change during a challenging moment

- Data challenges could grow worse over time and the work will remain arduous and error prone

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Recommendation from RFI

- Seek Stakeholder buy-in for implementation of Option I or Option II for district level and state level use.

- Why?
  - These solutions are likeliest to reduce complexity of current state challenges.
  - Ongoing system maintenance cost would likely be lower.
  - Unified training would be available for LEA staff.
  - Unified knowledge base supports shared tools and skills across organizations (i.e., orgs share knowledge instead of silo, makes work easier for all)

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Future State: Statewide SIS

- 1 statewide SIS reduces inequities between LEAs and reduces costs for everyone

- Resolves many critical required data reporting issues

- Reduces burden on LEAs and increase cross-LEA understanding and support (everyone has the same system)

What's Next?

- Who to contact with questions?
- Next step: [Survey](#)