OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First A⁺

OPI Data Modernization – HB367 & HB949 Integration and Agency Data Needs Meeting

Date: Wednesday October 24, 2023 @ 11:00am-12:00noon MST

Purpose: Discuss and document OCHE and DLI data needs relating to HB367/HB947 and OPI's data modernization implementation approach

Attendees:

- Zam Alidina, OPI
- Chris Sinrud, OPI
- Andy Campbell, OPI
- Ashley Perez, OPI
- John Thunstrom, OCHE
- Eric Meredith, OCHE
- Kim Warren, DLI
- Barbara Wagner, DLI
- Quinlan O'Connor, DLI
- Crystal Armstrong, DLI

Meeting Agenda:

Welcome and Introduction
- Welcome all participants and introduce the purpose of the meeting.
- Briefly recap the objectives of the OPI Data Modernization Project.

Review of Previous Meeting
- Recap key points from the first meeting with OCHE.
- Highlight actions or requirements provided by OCHE after the initial meeting.

Overview of OPI Data Modernization Project Progress
- Provide a brief update on the current status of the project.
- Highlight significant milestones achieved since the last meeting.
- Share an overview of the project timeline.

Meeting Objective
- Documenting OCHE and DLI's data integration requirements.
- Communication and visibility

Presentation of OCHE Data Needs
- Data element & integration needs.
- Discuss any specific data formats, sources, or timelines that are crucial for the project.

Presentation of DLI Data Needs
- Data element & integration needs.
- Discuss any specific data formats, sources, or timelines that are crucial for the project.

Action Items and Next Steps

Meeting Notes:

- Zam introduced the purpose of the meeting, which is to ensure that the agency's data needs are accounted for in the data modernization project with Power School.
- They discussed the recent assessment by AWS and the recommendations for post-implementation solutions.
- Power School is working with OPI to understand district connections and data capture from Infinite Campus.
- The goal is to implement three Power School applications by June 2, 2024, including data centralization, analytics, and community engagement.
- There have been some architectural challenges, but the project is on schedule.
- They plan to do configuration, testing, and training before implementation.
- No major roadblocks have been encountered so far.
- Snowflake is being used as the base technology for the data lake, hosted by Amazon.
- OCHE expressed the need for coordination between different agencies and vendors regarding Snowflake.
- Barbara Wagner offered to help John connect with the necessary contacts for Snowflake access.
- OCHE mentioned ongoing data needs with DLI and the need to align with Snowflake usage.
- DLI inquired about the other vendors' data integration with Snowflake.
- OPI mentioned that other vendors use SQL Server.

- The timeline for data migration to Snowflake is estimated to begin by February.
- There are legal considerations and data privacy concerns being addressed, and updates will follow.
- DLI Legal mentioned working on confidentiality requirements for UI data.
- OPI discussed the need to streamline migration paths for data related to larger schools.
- OCHE acknowledged the update.
- OPI discussed high-level data conversion migration activities and timeframe.
- OPI expressed the need to qualify and ensure the quality of data as they transition and mentioned a probable timeline around February.
- OPI discussed the importance of documenting the design and configuration process, emphasizing that February is when detailed documentation should begin.
- OPI inquired about the point of contact for data requests from DLI and received information about reaching out to Crystal Armstrong.
- DLI raised a question about data sharing agreements and suggested a working group to address potential issues.
- DLI Legal mentioned potential overlap with Snowflake integration and discussed the need for standardization in data sharing.
- OPI mentioned that data sharing agreements would be discussed at the governing board level meetings.
- OPI asked if there were specific data needs from DLI for OPI, with a focus on CTE class effectiveness as a potential data request.
- The meeting discussed the need for better connection between K12 and higher education programs.
- OCHE mentioned that some programs cross over between K12 and higher education and tracking them would be beneficial.
- There was a discussion about table requests and whether the required elements were included.
- OCHE mentioned that they are still trying to gather information on Perkins' side.
- The team discussed receiving data and documentation from DLI and the need to understand the level of information required.
- They also discussed what to do if they can't collect certain data within the legal parameters of House bills.
- The possibility of building data views instead of just accessing tables was raised.
- The challenge of matching Native American names for data analysis was noted.
- The next meeting for November or early December was mentioned, considering the upcoming holiday.
- The importance of aligning with House bill interpretations and upcoming tasks was highlighted.

Action Items and Follow-Ups

1. Continue to work on architectural challenges and design.

2. Identify a school for the pilot implementation.

3. Ensure ongoing communication and collaboration between the agency and Power School.

4. John Thunstrom will connect with Adam Carpenter regarding Snowflake licensing.

5. Barbara Wagner will facilitate a meeting with John, Christopher, and Adam and Sarah from the CDO office.

6. Continue to monitor legal and data privacy discussions related to the data migration.

7. Begin data migration activities by February, with updates as needed.

8. Consider forming a working group to address data sharing agreements and governance.

9. Continue discussions about data needs, especially regarding CTE class effectiveness and tracking of high school students' post-graduation wages.

10. Explore the possibility of defining CTE concentrators or participants at the K12 level for more accurate reporting.

11. Eric to continue gathering information on Perkins' side.

12. Chris and Andy to explore the possibility of building data views.

13. Evaluate solutions for matching Native American names in data analysis.

14. Schedule the next meeting for November or early December.