Statewide Longitudinal Education Data Warehouse (SLED)

Demonstration

December 14, 2011

Questions & Answers

January 21, 2011

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I. Document Purpose

This document provides answers to questions raised during the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data (SLED) warehouse demonstration on December 14, 2010. Please send additional questions to sled.info@dc.gov.

II. Acronyms & Definitions

The following is a list of relevant acronyms and their associated definitions:

#	Acronym	Definition
1	DC	District of Columbia
2	DCPS	District of Columbia Public Schools
3	ELL	English Language Learner
4	FERPA	Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
5	LEA	Local Education Agency
6	OSSE	District of Columbia's Office of the State Superintendent of Education
7	PCS	Public Charter Schools
8	PCSB	DC Public Charter School Board
9	SEDS	OSSE's Special Education Data System
10	SIF	School Interoperability Framework
11	SIS	Student Information System
12	SLED	Statewide Longitudinal Education Data Warehouse

III. Answers to Common Questions

The following are consolidated answers to commonly raised questions:

A. How will SLED integrate with Local Education Agency's (LEA) Student Information Systems (SIS)?

The original vision and goal of the SLED was to establish SIF (School Interoperability Framework) integration with each LEA's SIS. However, based on OSSE's experience with SIF during the first SLED iteration and other state SIF implementation experiences, OSSE is investigating multiple options for how to best integrate with LEA's systems. It is our goal to leverage the work done and

resources already in place to determine the best approach moving forward. The SLED integration schedule with LEAs will be determined at a later date.

B. What does it mean to integrate SLED with LEA SISs?

In order to integrate directly with a SIS, the SLED team must gather requirements to understand the types of data that can and will be transferred between the two systems. When integration between SLED and LEA SISs is complete, electronic and automatic data integration will be possible. For example, when student data is provided to SLED from the SIS, the SLED will create a USI for a student and return the USI to the SIS.

C. Which are the most commonly used SISs in DC and are they SIF compliant?

The two most popular SISs in the DC education environment are eSIS (known as DCSTARS and used by DCPS) and PowerSchool (used by approximately 40 PCS LEAs). Both of these SISs are SIF compliant, meaning that these products have been certified by the SIF Association to meet the needs of the SIF specifications. Several other SISs exist such as Go.Edu (used by approximately 12 LEAs), Blackbaud, STI, Administrative Plus, PCR, School Minder and Catalyst. The following URL on the SIF organization website provides a list of the SIF compliant SISs: http://www.sifassociation.org/us/search-result.asp.

D. What is the current LEA roster integration process and how will SLED get data from PCSs in the future?

The current LEA roster integration process used to load student demographic data into the SLED and student demographic and enrollment data into SEDS involves OSSE receiving data from DCPS and PCSB daily (DCPS) and twice a week (PCSB). This process helps to streamline the data exchange between OSSE and PCSs.

The SLED aims to eventually provide the following three options for receiving LEA data:

1. PCSB data file integration into the SLED (via OLAMS/ProActive);
2. Integration between the SLED and LEA SISs; and/or
3. Manual data entry by LEAs.

Note: PCSB data file integration with the SLED will be the primary process for receiving PCS demographic and enrollment data until SLED/SIS integration is in place.

E. What are the benefits of OSSE pulling data from PCSB (OLAMS)?

1. Streamlines data exchange as OLAMS provides data electronically to both SLED and SEDS;
2. Eliminates the need for LEAs to provide the same data to multiple source systems; and
3. Enables the provision of the USIs to PCSB and DCPS to be loaded into OLAMS/ProActive and DCSTARS, respectively.

F. What is the plan to roll out the Unique Student Identifiers?

The USI will become the state identifier for all students attending a DC Local Education Agency (LEA) starting school year **2011/2012.** At that time, OSSE will no longer assign DCSTARS IDs to new public school students.

G. When will the Special Education System (SEDS) include USIs?

The SLED will provide the USIs to SEDS starting school year 2011/12. In addition, various SEDS data such as the ability to identify students that are receiving special education services will be identified in SLED. In order to assist with the transition from the DCSTARS IDs to the USI during school year 2011/2012, OSSE will provide additional training and communication to LEAs during the summer of 2011.

H. In what other ways will the USI be used in 2011/12?

The USI will be used on the DC CAS precode ID labels (pre-slugging) beginning school year 2011/2012.

***In order for OSSE to properly plan this release we would like to hear directly from LEAs regarding any concerns/issues that LEAs may have regarding USIs replacing DCSTARS IDs in SEDS, including any LEA system impacts. Please email us at sled.info@dc.gov no later than February 18, 2011.

I. When will the SLED be online and available for LEAs to use?

OSSE plans to provide LEAs with online access to the SLED during the summer of 2011. The security access to the SLED will be in accordance with FERPA. Once LEAs have access to the SLED, each LEA will have the ability to do the following:

1. Access the SLED anywhere internet access is available;
2. Run respective LEA reports and queries of the SLED data based on each user's access levels;
3. Access student-level data available; and
4. Sort data and generate various types of reports.

As additional functionality is added to the SLED with each release, more data and reports will be available to the LEAs.

IV. SLED Demonstration Questions & Answers

This section provides responses to questions asked by participants during the SLED demonstration:

1. **Question:** Can we get copies of these slides?
   Answer: The presentation has been provided to all participants and it is available on the OSSE SLED website at http://osse.dc.gov/seo/cwp/view,a,1222,q,561228,seoNav_GID,1507,seoNav,|3 1195|,,.asp.

2. **Question:** Will the USI take the place of the STARS ID? If so, will this transfer to SEDS so the students only have one ID number?
   Answer: Refer to Section III item G (When will SEDS include USIs?) for a detailed response.

3. **Question:** What's the EPcode field on the right under the enrollment audit history?
   Answer: The EPcode stands for English Language Learner (ELL). The SLED will replace EPcode with ELL.

4. **Question:** Does SLED take the place of OLAMS? Or will we need to continue to use both systems?
   Answer: SLED will not replace OLAMS. Further, OLAMS is maintained by PCSB while the SLED is maintained by OSSE. Please refer questions about OLAMS directly to PCSB.

5. **Question:** Which ID will be on the DC CAS precode ID labels this year? If it is the new USI, will schools get lists of USIs so that they can correctly match up their data?
   Answer: The DC STARS ID will be used on the DC CAS precode ID labels during school year 2011/2012. The USI will be used on the DC CAS precode ID labels beginning school year 2011/2012.

6. **Question:** How soon will schools have access to the USI interface via SIF connectivity?
   Answer: OSSE plans to make the USI interface available to users during the summer of 2011. Refer to Section III questions A, B and I for information regarding SIF integration and availability.

7. **Question:** Does the student view include Special Education and ELL status?
   Answer: The requirements for special education and ELL status are currently being determined and will be included in the SLED.

8. **Question:** Will we need to continue to use OLAMS and SLED and SEDS as three separate data systems?
   Answer: The SLED is not a transactional system, which means LEAs will not use SLED to enter student data as is done with an SIS and OLAMS. The SLED will serve as a reporting tool for educational data analysis by gathering data from various source systems into a single unique repository (data warehouse) with historical reporting and the ability to link data across systems via the USI. SEDS will continue to be the source system for special education data. Refer to Question 4 for additional information related to this topic, as well Section III questions A, B, E, F, G and I.

9. **Question:** How does this affect students enrolled in special education?
   Answer: See the answer to Question 8 (above) and refer to Section III question G for a detailed response.

10. **Question:** Will requests go out at later stages of development such as the early childhood/adult ed roll out to get input from schools or other stakeholders?
    Answer: During the requirements gathering phases of each release, the SLED team will meet with stakeholders to gather requirements.

11. **Question:** Before it was important to have a SIF enabled SIS...
    Answer: Refer to Section III questions A, B and C for a detailed response.

12. **Question:** Do you have a list of SIF enabled SISs for us, if that will still be a requirement?
    Answer: The following link has a list of SIF certified SISs: http://www.sifassociation.org/us/search-result.asp.

13. **Question:** Will we be able to download PowerSchool directly to SLED, and vice-versa?
    Answer: Refer to Section III questions A, B and C for a detailed response.

14. **Question:** Exit/Withdrawal codes: Will they match the ones we're currently using for OLAMS?
    Answer: OSSE will issue an Exit/Withdrawal Policy during the spring of 2011. OSSE is working with PCSB to ensure alignment.

15. **Question:** How does this affect students with IEPs?
    Answer: Refer to Section III Question G for a detailed response.

16. **Question:** How does this impact the use of Inform?
    Answer: PCSB will provide Inform a crosswalk document that can be uploaded into Inform to keep the integrity of the data and the alignment of students. Please refer all additional Inform related questions to PCSB.

17. **Question:** If OSSE is not assigning DCSTARS IDs, who will and what measures will be put in place to ensure no duplicates?
    Answer: Regarding duplicates, the SLED will create reports containing duplicative enrollments (students enrolled at more than one school simultaneously). It will be the responsibility of the LEAs/schools to resolve the enrollment of the student(s) in question. Further details regarding the resolution process will be provided by OSSE. Refer to Section III question F for additional information.

18. **Question:** Will actual test score reports be electronically available for individual students within the SLED?
    Answer: DC CAS assessment details (including strand level) will be incorporated within the SLED during Release 3: 360° Student View Part 1. This release has an estimated 2012 release.

19. **Questions:** Can you talk more about the process for integrating data from various student information systems to SLED? Will that process be automated at some point or will schools need to provide rosters to the system?
    Answer: Refer to Section III questions A, B, D, E, F and I for a detailed response.

20. **Questions:** Will we be able to run respective LEA reports and queries as those seen for statewide data in the demonstration?
    Answer: Refer to Section III question I for a detailed response.

21. **Questions:** Please confirm...a vendor is going to automate the interface between SLED and our SIS?
    Answer: Refer to Section III Questions A and B for a detailed response.

22. **Questions:** How will we confirm NSLP student participants for students not receiving TANF and food stamps? Will the process remain the same?
    Answer: Currently, the process will remain the same.

23. **Questions:** What will be the function of the Front End Interface?
    Answer: Refer to Section III Question I for a detailed response.

24. **Questions:** How much access will schools have to student records from enrollment in previous schools?
    Answer: Refer to Section III Question I for a detailed response.

25. **Questions:** Is the USI a completely random number or a composite of some current student data elements?
    Answer: The USI is and will continue to be a randomly generated number.

26. **Comment:** Not having SIF compliance as part of the system defeats the 'hard-encouragement' made by OSSE when recommending schools to implement this kind of systems.
    Answer: Refer to Section III question A for a detailed response.

27. **Question:** Which school personnel are most likely to use SLED?
    Answer: The school personnel most likely to use the SLED will depend on the functionality and data available. The table below lists the probable LEA users per release:

Release	Data Reporting Benefits	Expected LEA User	Estimated Release Date
USI Enhancement	LEAs will be able to resolve data issues online that impact USI assignment	Administration, Registrar	Summer 2011
Release 1: Data Warehouse	Data Warehouse	Administration, Registrar	Fall 2011
Release 2: Direct Certification	Improve Direct Certification Reporting	Administration, Registrar, Food Service Personnel	Fall 2011

Release 3: 360° Student View Pt. 1	Assessment (Strand Level), Graduation, Standardized Testing Results	Administration, Registrar, Food Service Personnel	Winter 2012
Release 4: 360° Student View Pt. 2	Assessment (Strand Level), Graduation, Standardized Testing Results	Administration, Registrar, Food Service Personnel	Summer 2012
Release 5: Teacher & Staff Module	Establish Teacher/Staff ID, Link Teacher to Student, Class, Course, Track Performance, Student Achievement/Performance	Administration, Registrar, Food Service Personnel, Teachers	Fall 2012
Release 6: Early Childhood, College Enrollment, Adult Education	Early Childcare Provider, Kindergarten Readiness, OST, College Enrollment/Persistence, Electronic Transcripts, Adult Education	Administration, Registrar, Food Service Personnel, Teachers	Winter 2013

28. **Question:** How will students attending non-public schools for special education purposes (but who remain the responsibility of and "enrolled" with the LEA) be handled in SLED?
    Answer: These students will be associated with both the non-public school and the LEA. The LEA will include these students on their official roster for accountability reasons.

29. **Question:** As is the policy now, will a student's DC CAS Scores count for the count day school or the currently enrolled school?
    Answer: The answer to this question will be answered in three parts:

    - **Student Transfers After the Enrollment Audit-** When a student transfers from one school to another school after the October 5 enrollment audit, the student counts toward the primarily (currently) enrolled school's test participation rate only. (The primarily enrolled school is the school the student attends during the time the DC CAS was taken.)

    The student's scores are not counted in the proficiency calculation for AYP purposes because the student has not spent the full academic year at the school by the state's definition. As a result, the student's DC CAS scores are not used to generate the school "AYP Report" on the OSSE website. However, it is used for proficiency percentage that appears on the primarily (currently) enrolled school's "Report Card". (The primarily enrolled school is the school the student was primarily enrolled during the time the DC CAS was taken.)

- **Student Transfers to School Before Enrollment Audit-** The student's scores will be used to calculate AYP and report card data for the primarily enrolled school.

- **Student Transfers After the Enrollment Between Schools Within the Same LEA-** If a student transfers within an LEA, the student counts for AYP at the LEA level and state level only.

30. **Question:** What processes are in place to ensure the data integrity?
    Answer: The process for ensuring data integrity will continuously evolve. The SLED team is currently working with DCPS and PCSB to identify a process for resolving data errors. Further, the LEA Data Management Policy recently released by OSSE, and effective January 4, 2011, highlights efforts to improve data quality and reporting. The policy is posted on the OSSE website: http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/seo/section/2/release/20883.

31. **Question:** Can you please explain what LEAs will need to enter into SLED on our own?
    Answer: Refer to Section III question D and I for a detailed response.

32. **Question:** Will parents be able to access the SLED to track their student's information over time?
    Answer: OSSE hopes to eventually provide parents with access to their child's information via SLED; however, the current three-year release schedule does not include plans to implement this functionality.

33. **Question:** Do you know if Open SIS SIF enabled?
    Answer: The following URL on the SIF organization website provides a list of the SIF compliant SISs: http://www.sifassociation.org/us/search-result.asp.

34. **Question:** Re: SIF ... but OSSE recommended that schools go the SIF route three years ago. And we did.
    Answer: Refer to Section III question A for a detailed response.

35. **Question:** Besides SIF, what other integration technologies are you guys looking into?
    Answer: Additional integration technologies that are being investigated include Informatica and Sequel Server Integration Services (SSIS).

36. **Question:** Will data be pulled from multiple data sources within a single school?

> **Answer:** If necessary, SLED will investigate the feasibility of integrating directly with the source system(s).

V.   SLED Team Contact Information

Feel free to contact the SLED Team via email if you have any follow up questions at sled.info@dc.gov. Additionally, please email us at sled.info@dc.gov if you are interested in participating in the Advisory Committee.