

## STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

### *STAKEHOLDER GROUPS*

- ◆ ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT
- ◆ SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- ◆ U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
- ◆ LAWMAKERS
- ◆ PUBLIC SECTOR
- ◆ RESEARCHERS

### *STAKEHOLDER INPUT VIA SEVERAL AVENUES*

- ◆ REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS
- ◆ SIX WEB-PORTAL REVIEW COMMITTEES
- ◆ A DATA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
- ◆ COMMITTEES WILL HELP DEVELOP END-USER POLICIES

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Education & Early Development  
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**Goal: To provide accurate, timely, and accessible student-level data**

UNITY



# The Unity Project—Data Mining for Student Success

## *Bottom Line*

- ◆ Create clear common definitions for student-level data and centralize the data into a statewide education information management system.
- ◆ Build customized web portals for the different types of users.
- ◆ Integrate the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development's (EED) data system with the systems of the 53 school districts.

Increasing effective instructional time is one of the main goals of the State Board of Education & Early Development. The Unity Project will provide districts with an efficient way to provide the state and federal governments with necessary data resulting in more available time for districts to focus on student achievement.

## *Benefits*

- ◆ Provide efficient and secure means, convenient for districts, to maintain accurate statewide student-level data year after year.
- ◆ Enable tracking of student achievement and evaluation of educational programs.
- ◆ Provide districts and EED with the data needed to comply with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) reporting requirements.
- ◆ Eliminate redundant entry of data and improve data quality at all levels.

## *Implementation*

The Unity Project has seven phases.

**Phase One** is complete. It created a data dictionary, which consists of clear definitions for student-level data and rules for entering data. The dictionary combined Online Alaska School Information System (OASIS) data elements, the state's Student Data Reporting Handbook, and federal program data elements.

\* **Phase One**, funded by EED, cost \$15,000.

**Phase Two** is scheduled to end during the summer of 2007. It will create a data warehouse and plans for extracting existing data from many sources at EED and loading the data into the data warehouse. A data warehouse will unify disparate data repositories and data elements to ensure accuracy.

**Phase Three** will design and deliver data in customized formats to six stakeholder groups: EED, school districts, the public, researchers, the federal government, and Alaska lawmakers. The result will be web portals which serve each type of stakeholder. Phase Three is scheduled to be completed during Winter 2007.

**Phase Four** will enable EED to electronically collect data from school districts. EED will adopt the Schools Interoperability Framework, known as SIF. SIF allows software applications to work together and share data. The use of SIF will reduce the reporting burden to districts and allow more accurate and timely reporting of data. Phase Four is scheduled to be completed by end of 2008

\* **Phases Two, Three and Four** are funded by a \$3.5 million federal grant, which EED received in November 2005 from the Institute of Education Sciences, the research arm of the U.S. Department of Education. Alaska was one of 14 states awarded a "longitudinal data system" grant. The title refers to gathering information about students from year to year, yielding valuable information that is useful in determining the effectiveness of an instructional program.

**Phases Five, Six and Seven** will expand the contents of the system to include district financials, school facility information, and teacher and staffing data.

\* **Phases Five, Six and Seven** are unfunded, and have not yet been scheduled for completion. If funded, the expected completion date would be in 2012.

## *Cohesiveness*

Selected EED staff and staff from each school district will receive ongoing end-user training in using the data system. Stakeholders will have access to data via web-portals.

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