

**ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL**

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**STATE BOARD MEETING DATE** 04/22/2013

**SUBJECT:** AELAS: ADE Data Systems Modernization Status Update

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mark Masterson, CIO/Pamela Smith, Executive Director of Strategic Programs

**MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW:** 04/02/2013

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**STATUS UPDATE**

ADE IT prepared a quarterly progress report the third quarter of FY 2013. The report was delivered as prescribed with a progress report from independent, third party that is not affiliated with state government (Gartner Research, a leading global IT consulting firm). The report is included with this memo.

**AELAS Vision**

AELAS is designed to follow the life cycle of a student from preschool to workforce, accumulating vital data so all education stakeholders are able to make informed decisions to prepare students for college and career readiness. *Education Intelligence*, the end result of these efforts, is real-time analytics that facilitates an increase in student growth and teacher efficacy. The transmission of student performance data, however, lags far behind the shift in enrollment and valuable instructional time is lost as a result. The Data Quality Campaign (DQC) has identified 10 Essential Elements of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems to support effective data use as roadmaps for state policymakers. These elements promote the development of state longitudinal data systems that collect quality data and answer critical education questions to ensure policy discussions are informed by high-quality data.

ADE has modeled its AELAS plan to meet these objectives. At this time, Arizona has only achieved three elements in 2011 and four elements in 2012. Committed to make AELAS a best-in-class education data system, ADE consulted with the **DQC's Co-Founder and Former Deputy Director** to complete a thorough internal data quality audit and provide recommendations for a comprehensive data governance program. Implementing her recommendations will allow ADE to no longer barrage schools for data it already has, saving time, resources and frustration. When a student walks into the door, a school administrator will enter the information and demographics one time. ADE will publish a schedule of what data needs to be reported and when and why it will be collected. ADE staff can run reports and analyze data without contacting LEAs because the Department will already have what it needs in a safe, secure and accurate format.

ADE has also embarked on a two-year partnership with the Maricopa County Education Service Agency (MCESA) to pilot the following data systems: Evaluation; Assessments; Professional Development; Content Management; and Data Integration. These pilot systems serve as proofs of concept, allowing ADE to demonstrate ability to deliver systems as designed and as budgeted. This partnership is also focusing on creating a system architecture that meets the 10 DQC data elements and gathers requirements for the systems outlined in the AELAS Business Case (reviewed and commended by Gartner's Education division).

**Project status updates**

***Begin to ensure accurate student payments***

The SAIS Replacement team began streamlining a number of SAIS payment functions, eliminating six redundant processes. Processing this portion of SAIS payments will significantly reduce a two to three day manual process into an automated process. The team used the SAIS Assessment documents to begin this project, and the basic design will be incorporated into the final SAIS replacement design.

The AELAS Business Case demonstrated that nearly \$155 million is spent statewide solely on Student Information Systems (SIS). Additionally, smaller districts pay more per student. This quarter, the department assembled a group of SIS users to develop the requirements for an opt-in statewide SIS. The group will provide input on needed modules, services and reports.

#### ***Create reliable, integrated technology services***

The ***Identity Management Solution*** completed its initial release in February. In addition to its internal release, the new security protocol mandated by the Data Governance Commission has been employed with the release of the MCESA teacher tools. Work has also begun to implement the new security protocol with the existing SLDS pilot sites.

ADE has implemented the first recommendation of appointing a Data Officer and is working on an implementation plan for the remaining nine recommendations. The agency data officer has instituted a temporary moratorium on ad hoc data requests in order to clear the existing backlog and develop a consistent, measurable process for receiving, tracking and fulfilling incoming data requests.

Connecting Education, Leadership and Technology (CELT), an internationally-recognized IT company specializing in P-20 education, conducted an in-depth analysis of the department's AELAS Business Case as well as the vision and conceptual architecture for AELAS implementation. Funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CELT is facilitating a cross-state, collaborative effort to focus on developing recommended practices and business processes for collecting and validating linked teacher and student data like that found in AELAS. Additionally, 19 State Education Chief Information Officers also conducted a site visit at the department to review progress on the Race to the Top grant deliverables and reviewed the conceptual architecture and implementation plans. ADE IT is pleased with the feedback provided by these outside agencies and is incorporating best practices from other states.

#### ***Provide LEAs access to full picture view of ADE student data***

LEAs representing more than 95 percent (590 LEAs) of the state's student population have begun the ***Student-Teacher-Course Connection (STC)*** process. Fortieth day certifications have been awarded to 493 LEAs, and 322 LEAs have received 100th-day certification. During this process, 561 LEAs have mapped to the Arizona Course Catalogue.

The ***SLDS/AzED<sup>3</sup>S*** team successfully launched the teacher dashboard pilot to eight additional LEAs. The department has received consistent, positive feedback about the project. The US Department of Education visited ADE IT in March to review the grant's progress and interview current pilot participants. The grant monitors indicated they were pleased with the department's progress to date and indicated that ADE IT is further along in its grant delivery than expected. The demonstration version, with masked data, has been well-received with many LEAs expressing interest in becoming a pilot district.

#### **Data Governance Commission Status Update**

At the February 15, 2013 Data Governance Commission meeting, ADE IT provided an update on the progress of validating SAIS business rules with school business officers and shared progress on the MCESA Instructional Improvement System partnership. The Commission approved *Technology Guidelines for PARCC Assessments Version 2.0 – December 2012* as the Arizona standards.

At the April 19, 2013 Data Governance Commission meeting, ADE IT presented the AELAS readiness plan. The Commission was briefed on the statewide Student Information System (SIS) concept and necessary funding to continue the requirements gathering process. This centralized, opt-in solution can substantially reduce costs provide a standardized way of reporting data to ADE. Additionally, ADE IT made the following requests of the Data Governance Commission:

• SAIS Phase I Replacement	\$ 1,200,000
• Improve internal ADE programs	\$ 1,200,000
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TOTAL	\$ 2,400,000

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [ ] INFORMATION [ X ] ACTION/DESCRIBED BELOW:**

Approve Budget:

• SAIS Phase I Replacement	\$ 1,200,000
• Improve internal ADE programs	\$ 1,200,000
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TOTAL	\$ 2,400,000

**ATTACHMENTS: YES [ X ] NO [ ]**  
**PowerPoint presentation**  
**ADE IT Quarterly Report Submission**