



IES SLDS Grantee Meeting – Bethesda, MD
Master Data Management
Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Kathy Gosa (KS), Donald Houde (AZ), and Rick Rozzelle (TN) presented on how each of their state education agencies implemented Master Data Management (MDM), and how MDM is adding to their SLDS projects. They described MDM as *a set of processes and tools that consistently define and manage data entities of an organization*. MDM is a way to provide consistent data across an enterprise and is implemented to prevent questionable, inconsistent, and redundant data that result from being stored in independent silos.

Tennessee

Rick Rozelle's overview of Tennessee's MDM implementation emphasized the importance of securing buy-in and active support from the executive to district levels. He recommended that states allow for participation/feedback whenever possible.

Tennessee gives vendors a six month period to implement changes to data elements, which follow a well defined process.

Kansas

Kathy Gosa explained that all Kansas data are subject to the data governance principles of data ownership, stewardship, security, quality management, and lifecycle and change management. Lifecycle and change management are a set of procedures and tools used to document the impact of changes across the organization. Steps to successfully implement MDM include: examining major subject areas for redundant data; analyzing collection and management practices; identifying system of record; and then implementing MDM processes around subject area data domains. Kathy recommended that states prioritize subject areas and implement them one by one.

IT is designated with custodianship, program directors are designated with stewardship, and directors of programs that specify the data that need to be collected are given ownership of the data. When there are changes to data elements, Kansas has a process for making changes quickly for urgent requests. Otherwise, changes go through the full process that includes monthly meetings, at which all possible changes are discussed and planned.

Arizona

Don Houde also mentioned the importance of executive buy-in and support, and emphasized the importance of securing support from all subgroups in an organization. He pointed out that training programs and materials are necessary in gaining support. Additionally, he described how Arizona has defined an



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agency-wide process to route data modification requests through MDM. This provides a formalized process that helps prevent misuse of data.

In Arizona, the districts own their data because they supply the data. IT is the steward and does not change the supplied data. Arizona does not have a one way to deal with changes to data elements. It weighs the risk of making a change quickly against the risk of what will happen if the change is *not* made. Sometimes it is necessary to make the change immediately, while in most cases it's best to consider and plan it more carefully.