Presentation on

Arizona Department of Education Information Technology Program Study

Clifford J. Ehlinger, Ed. D.
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Of special note to this report: when the project was initiated, there was a different leadership team in place at the Arizona Department of Education. All of the information that was gathered through the interviews and document review related to the work of the prior administration. With the election of a new Superintendent of Public Instruction and a change in the leadership of the ADE Information Technology (IT) Program, there appears to be a new energy, leadership and management style, and a collaborative, open, and transparent willingness to address historical shortcomings of the services from the IT Program.

ADE IT Program Study

- Consultant
- Expectations
- Activities
- Observations
- Considerations
- Future Directions

Consultant

- Education
  - Ed. D. in Instructional Technology
- Experience
  - Middle School Teacher
  - University Assistant Professor
  - Regional Educational Administrator
  - Consultant
    - LEA Technology Reviews
    - Colorado Department of Education
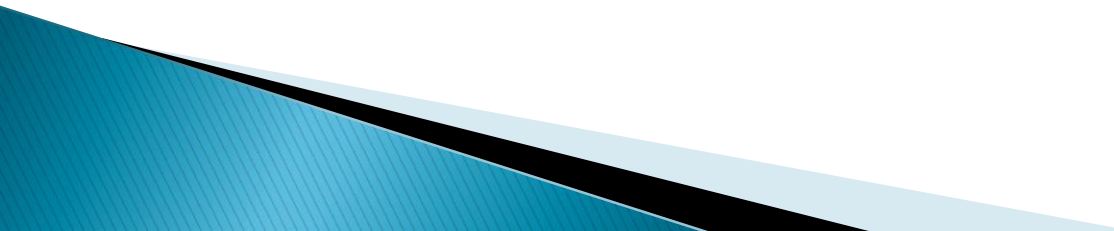   - New Mexico Public Education Department

Expectations

▸ The report is divided into two sections:

- Section One: Review of State Fiscal Stabilization Funding (SFSF) Phase II Application

- Section Two: Review of Arizona Department of Education Information Technology Program

Section One: SFSF Application

▸ Are the data collection and public reporting plan assurances for monitoring and reporting the data accurate and feasible based on the current ADE data systems?

- 29 of the 49 indicators (59%) were found to be accurate
- Of the 29 indicators, 8 require some minor modifications
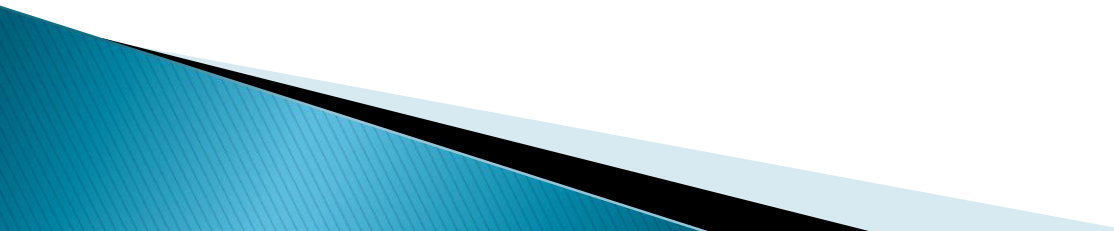
Modifications

- Web link needs to be clearly identified

- Web link needs to be verified

- Indicator is not addressed need to identify state statute

- Need to have numerator and denominator identified

- Web link needs a clarifying path (4)

Section One: SFSF Application

‣ **Are the work plans identified in the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Phase II Application viable to meet the required indicators**?

▪ 20 of the 49 indicators require a revision of timelines and activities

Revisions

- Summarize and present teacher/principal survey
- Develop process to determine students not tested
- Identify work that is being done on data warehouse pilot project
- Determine the application of the Colorado Growth Model
- Coordinate work within the ADE program to report out information
- Expand partnerships with charter schools and higher education

Section One: SFSF Application

- In the work plans that are not viable, what are the recommended next steps to meet all of the federal requirements and guidelines as addressed in the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund Phase II Application?

  - When revised the work plans that needed corrections should be able to provide the required evidence
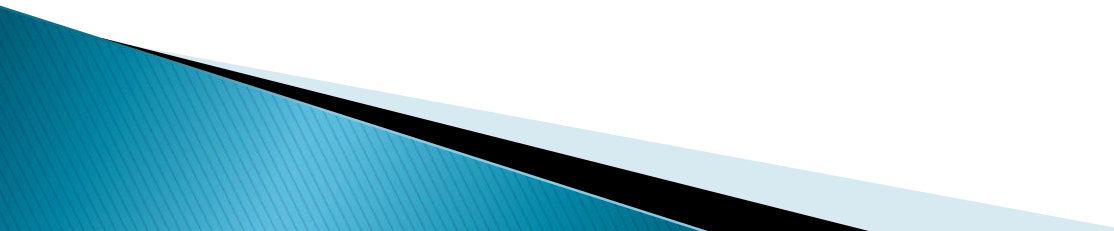
Section Two: ADE IT Program Review

- Are the existing data systems within the Arizona Department of Education commensurate with current and future state needs?

  - SAIS, is not capable of handling either the amount of data or the complexity of the business rules
  - The system needs to be revised or replaced to make it commensurate with current and future needs
  - There is a need for a contemporary student longitudinal data system (SLDS)
  - The SLDS needs the capacity to provide aggregated data and reports for decision-making by stakeholders
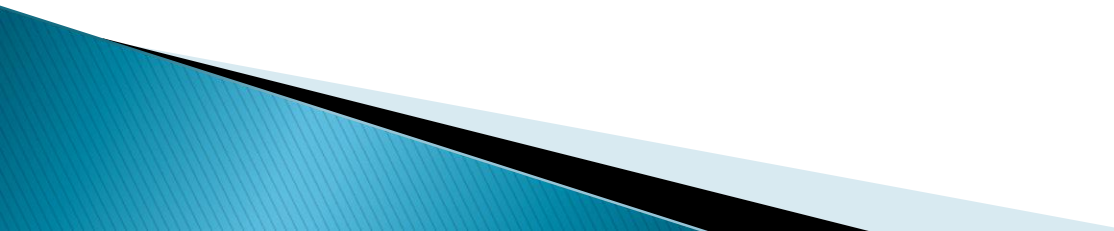
Interviews

- Local school personnel
- State officials
- IT Program staff
- Educational advocates
- Higher Education representatives
- Charter School representatives
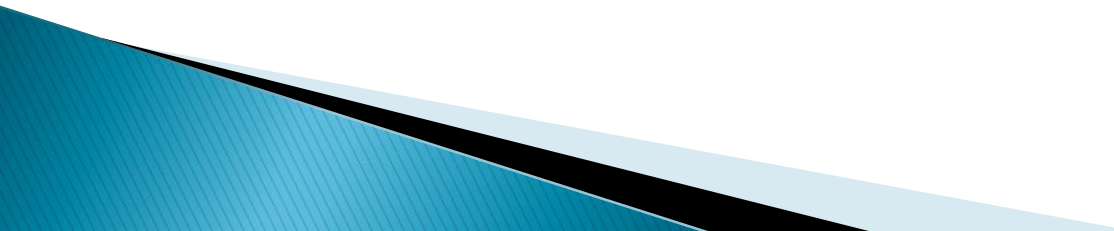- Foundation representatives

Document Review

- Document Review
  - SFSF Phase II Application
  - House Bill 2733
  - Race to the Top Narrative
  - Colorado Growth Model
  - Data Quality Campaign Essential Elements
  - Overview of Arizona State System for Information on Student Transfer
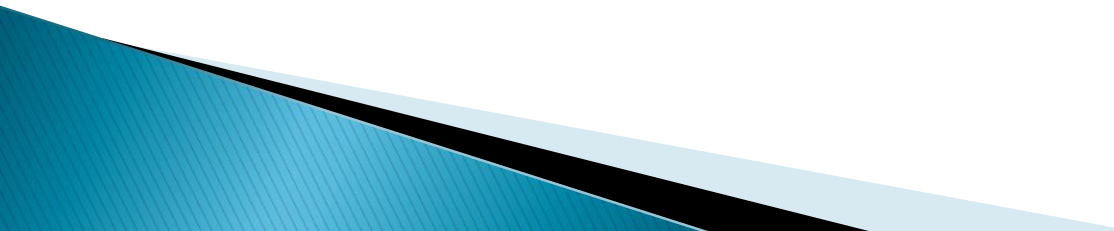 - Arizona's Educational Reform Plan

Problems

- SAIS systems needs to be improved
- Management style
- Alignment of work
- Self directed work; lack of teamwork
- Communication void
- Need for greater partnerships
- Customer responsiveness and input
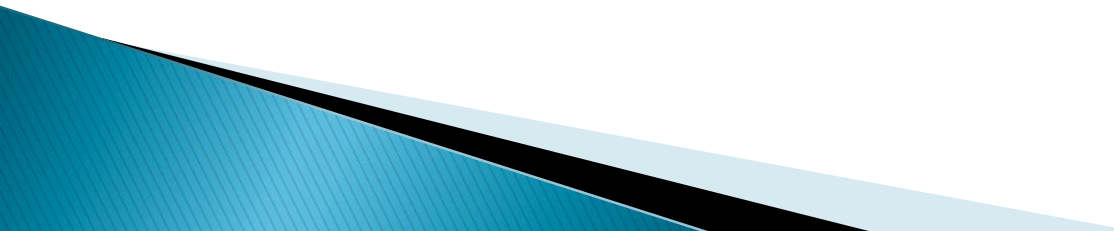
Customer identified needs

- Customer input and increased customer responsiveness
- Provide greater end user training
- Concern about the validity of the data, need for clarity
- Want data to be accurate, timely, and ease to access and report
- Need for greater communications
- Make the system user friendly

Considerations

- Either rebuild the Student Accountability and Information System (SAIS), design an RFP to purchase a replacement for SAIS, or provide a combination of revision and purchase modules for SAIS

- Provide leadership for the development and implementation of a statewide student longitudinal data system (SLDS) that is based on a K-20 platform and meets the information needs of the stakeholders

Considerations

- Establish a variety of internal and external communication techniques. This model would include methodologies for the delivery of both one-way and two-way messaging of written, verbal, face-to-face and electronic information

- Develop and implement training and professional development activities for staff members to support the integration software applications and to provide training on collaboration, communications, and team building

Considerations

- Establish collaborative relationships with a variety of institutions and associations to create a synergetic arena in which to develop a contemporary student longitudinal data system

- Additional considerations include reviewing the leadership attributes needed to move the division forward, replacing the network equipment, identifying problems with the complexity of educational legislation, and reviewing techniques for improving customer service

Next Steps

- Superintendent and staff review considerations
- Prioritize considerations
- Determine action plans

Future considerations

- Separate but integrated student longitudinal data system
- High quality, timely and secure data
- Partnership driven
- Transparent and articulated
- Tiered levels of responsibilities
  - Integrated
    - Policy
    - Operation
    - Advisory