



APRIL, 2008

UNITY — ALASKA'S  
LONGITUDINAL  
DATA SYSTEM



**LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM**  
**(aka The UNITY PROJECT)**

The State is building a longitudinal data system (LDS) to support the school districts using a \$3.5 million federal grant. When completed (scheduled for Fall 2010), the districts will begin to have longitudinal data at their finger tips to assist in data driven decision making.

**PORTALS and REPORTS**

Five of the 28 reports have been completed by the contractor. Internal EED programs will begin testing the report cubes by early May. It is anticipated that the testing portal will be open to the initial 22-member stakeholder group for piloting and testing by the end of summer, 2008. A single log-on and password procedure and process will be put into place, with the districts assuming responsibility for assigning log-on and passwords to control and maintain security and access to confidential data.

**INTEROPERABILITY**

Seven pilot districts have been identified and invited to participate in piloting the State Report Manager (SRM). The timeline anticipates the ability for the pilot districts to submit the Fall OASIS collection through the SRM. The SRM will provide pilot districts with error reports in an attempt to improve data quality and correct data in the source files. Once the pilot districts become successful in submitting collection via SRM, the tool will be rolled out to remaining districts in phases. It is anticipated that the final SRM roll out statewide will be accomplished by the end of 2008. This is the first step toward implementing vertical reporting using SIF in the districts.

The pilot districts will also be piloting the School Interoperability Framework (SIF) phase which includes the

- **Student Locator Framework:** which connects to the state student ID system to automatically populate the district student information system for new students
- **zone integration servers:** The central “traffic cop” for SIF messages and events,
- **SIF agents:** which connect the district’s student information system to the framework.

Once the pilot districts are complete, statewide SIF rollout is anticipated by Fall of 2009.

Please refer to the February, 2008 newsletter for the in-depth discussion about costs to the districts, SIF and vertical reporting.

Any questions? Feel free to contact:  
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