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ESP Solutions Group Awarded Contract to Improve Adequate Yearly Progress Reporting for the Oregon Department of Education

Streamlining Business Processes Will Provide Better Data for AYP and State Report Cards

AUSTIN, TEXAS (April 26, 2006) – Re-engineering a major business process involves Oregon educators from schools to the Superintendent of Education. ESP Solutions Group recently announced its collaboration with the Oregon Department of Education to ensure quality data throughout the complex process of collecting and reporting data for AYP and annual report cards.

Each year states must establish and define “adequate yearly progress” (AYP) to hold schools and school districts accountable under the No Child Left Behind Act. AYP, in part, serves as a guide to determine areas needing improvement and areas where funding and other resources should be focused. Because the quality of data used for AYP reports has significant implications for states, Oregon has taken measures to improve their current business processes feeding into AYP and their annual school report cards.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE), contracting with the leader in K-12 education data systems, ESP Solutions Group (ESP), is involved in a major business process improvement effort that will focus on the accuracy, timeliness, and communication of AYP reports to school districts. ESP is currently reviewing standard ODE AYP practices in the areas of data collection, database management, assessment administration, and data reporting.

For ESP to gain a comprehensive view of how AYP currently operates in Oregon, they have interviewed a majority of ODE staff who serve crucial roles in submitting and analyzing AYP data and who make policy decisions regarding AYP results. In addition ESP staff interviewed ODE stakeholders, including school, district, and Education Service District (ESD) superintendents, school and school district administrators, principals, and teachers.

ESP will consolidate information from the interviews and national standards and recommend strategies to optimize process flow and communication. “ESP’s focus for this project is to ensure the quality of data for AYP and report cards are the best they can be so ODE can make the best decisions about resources and schools,” says Glynn D. Ligon, ESP President and CEO.

ESP has helped many states conform to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. “More so than any other firm responding to our request for proposals, ESP demonstrated they know the intricacies of educational data and how they relate to AYP and NCLB. We were extremely confident in our award decision and very pleased with the work ESP has performed to date on this project.” Said Doug Kosty, Assistant Superintendent from ODE. The final findings and recommendations of the project are expected to be delivered to ODE this May.

About ESP Solutions Group

ESP Solutions Group provides its education agency clients with extraordinary insight into K-12 data systems and psychometrics. Its team is comprised of industry experts who pioneered the concept of “data driven decision making” and now help optimize the management of data by state and local education agencies. ESP personnel have advised all 52 state education agencies as well as the U.S. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on the practice of K-12 school data management. The firm’s management team is regarded as leading experts in understanding the data and technology implications of NCLB (the No Child Left Behind Act), EDEN (Education Data Exchange Network), and SIF (Schools Interoperability Framework).

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Contact:

ESP Solutions Group

Anne-Marie Westmoreland

(512) 458-8364, ext. 106

amwestmoreland@espsolutionsgroup.com