



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wyoming Improves the Quality of Education by Implementing the Nation's Most Advanced Education Data System

Sharing student data statewide saves time and money

AUSTIN, TEXAS. (August 10, 2005) – The Wyoming Department of Education, along with ESP Solutions Group, is leading the advancement of data-driven decision making by implementing the country's most sophisticated education data system. The new system, aptly named the Wyoming Integrated Statewide Education Data System (WISE), is the first full statewide deployment of software based on technologies compliant with the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF), a set of national standards developed for educational software interoperability. SIF enables applications to securely interact and share data regardless of the hosting platform.

To accomplish this, Wyoming selected a premier team of education data system providers, led by ESP Solutions Group, a leading K-12 education data systems integrator, for the nearly \$4 million contract, spanning five years. ESP Solutions Group, along with its partners Edustructures and eScholar, has successfully implemented large-scale systems for several other state education agencies.

The project includes ESP's State Report Manager™ for next-generation state reporting, eScholar's Uniq-ID™, a SIF-based unique identifier system, Edustructure's Zone Integrated Servers, and the installation and configuration of up to 10 SIF agents (connection points) for every district. Wyoming's system is unique in that it will not only allow schools to share information across districts via SIF, but it will also use SIF to transfer information from district-to-state. WISE illustrates a major advancement in the adoption of SIF, as well as a major advancement in statewide education data systems.

"The Wyoming Department of Education is proof that vision and sound leadership are more critical ingredients for success than state size or amount of resources," said Glynn Ligon, president of ESP Solutions Group. "State education agencies of every size look to Wyoming for leadership with new technologies and systems."

"Wyoming understands that establishing a student identifier and locator system is an essential building block for using data to help children get a better education," explained Shawn Bay, CEO of eScholar, known as a leader in unique student identification and data warehousing for K-12 education. "Implementing this system will reduce the state's reporting burden, enabling Wyoming educators to spend more time using reporting results to make decisions that support increasing student achievement."

Once the implementation is complete, everyone from the classroom to the Capitol will have more timely and higher quality data for decision making. In the process, cost savings from the avoidance of re-keying data into multiple software applications and reports will return the investment made by the Wyoming Department of Education many-fold.

Steve Curtis, chief operating officer of Edustructures and an expert in SIF software products and services, added: "The entire premise behind the School Interoperability Framework is to save schools

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time and money. By implementing SIF statewide, WISE will save time and money, and school administrators and teachers will have better quality data right away -- which is what data-driven decision making is all 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" in the 1970's and who 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), PBDMI (Performance Based Data Management Initiative), EDEN (Education Data Exchange Network), and SIF (Schools Interoperability Framework).

About eScholar

Based in White Plains, New York, eScholar is the leading provider of data warehouse and student identifier systems, delivering a common platform of integrated data that supports the best possible analytical capabilities. The company's products are licensed for use by more than 2,400 school districts across the country as well as by seven state education agencies.

As the recognized standard in K-12 data warehousing, eScholar has partnerships with leading product and service vendors, consulting firms and educational organizations. eScholar has been a leader in the Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF), chairs SIF's Data Warehousing Working Group, is a founding SIF Association Board Member, and has assisted in setting the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) standards for school data identification.

About Edustructures

Edustructures is the first company completely dedicated to delivering an independent integration solution built on the SIF standard. As a result, it has quickly become the recognized leader in SIF integration solutions, making it possible for disparate applications to reliably and securely exchange data with one another.

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in the shadow of the Wasatch mountains just south of Salt Lake City, Edustructures is a privately held company distributing SIF-based software solutions. Through its SIFWorks® technology platform, comprehensive professional services, and business relationships with technology providers and educators, Edustructures connects the systems that power education.

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