



Contact:

Anne-Marie Hart
ESP Solutions Group
(512) 879-5329
amhart@espsolutionsgroup.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wyoming DOE Completes Special Education Data Collection and Reporting Process in Record Time

AUSTIN, TEXAS (January 23, 2007) – ESP Solutions Group, the leader in PK-12 education data systems and services, announced today that the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) completed their 2006 Special Education statewide data collection within 21 days by converting to ESP's State Report Manager™ (SRM) software. The 21 day process was a major improvement over the prior year's collection, which is still being finalized.

The process of collecting, certifying, and reporting data has traditionally been a complicated, time-consuming process for states. In most cases, each of the various steps is manual and each has a high potential for errors. SRM managed and streamlined the entire process of consolidating, cleaning, formatting, certifying, and exchanging data between schools, districts, and the State. As a result, WDE received perfect files from their districts, eliminating the lengthy cycle of manual reviews and revisions. The improvement in the collection was also the result of hard work and cooperation from the local district special education staff, WISE (Wyoming Integrated Statewide Education) Data System coordinators, and Technology coordinators. Afterwards, Stephanie Weaver from the WDE-Special Programs Unit said "I'm amazed at how well the collection progressed. Plus, we got great feedback from the districts."

Collecting student data is important to everyone; parents, teachers, and administrators alike. Once data are collected, analyzed, and reported, decisions are made based on the data's accuracy. This concept, known as Data Driven Decision Making (D3M) is a driving factor behind data collection. Furthermore, states are required to report student data to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) under both the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. States have the potential to receive federal funds for special education based on the data reported to the USED.

Glynn D. Ligon, President and CEO of ESP, commented on the achievement by saying, "The essence of our core business is to relieve the burden of reporting, raise the quality of education data, and support the use of data for decision making. Wyoming demonstrates that schools and states do not have to accept burdensome and slow processes for exchanging quality data."

For a comparative illustration of the SRM process versus the current process used in most states, visit <http://www.espsolutionsgroup.com>, and register for My ESP. This free registration allows access to ESP's library of content on prominent education issues.

About ESP Solutions Group

ESP provides education agencies with extraordinary insight into PK-12 data systems and psychometrics. ESP's team is comprised of industry experts who pioneered the concept of "Data Driven Decision Making" (D3M) and now help optimize the management of data in state and local education agencies. ESP has advised all 52 state education agencies as well as the U.S. Department of Education on the practice of PK-12 school data management. The firm's management team is regarded as leading experts in understanding data and technology implications of NCLB, EDEN (Education Data Exchange Network), and SIF (Schools Interoperability Framework).

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