



JANET BARRESI  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 10, 2012

To all district superintendents:

On behalf of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Janet Barresi – and in collaboration with the Office of State Finance’s Information Services Division (OSF/ISD), the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA) and the Oklahoma State School Boards Association (OSSBA) – I am pleased to announce a new partnership with school districts called the **“Data Pipeline Project.”**

For more than a year, the SDE has been in discussions with district leaders across Oklahoma about the data they report to the state, the systems they use to report the data and how the data can better support classroom teachers. In those discussions, district leaders have identified a number of critical problems, burdens and inefficiencies that make data collection and reporting more difficult and more expensive.

In addition, districts have also rightly pointed out that they alone shoulder the burden of providing useful data tools to help their teachers improve instruction and outcomes for their students.

Based on those discussions, the SDE has established the following goals for the **“Data Pipeline Project”**:

- Support local Student Information Systems with state contracts and/or state hosting of widely used systems
- Increase connectivity at lower cost using available state fiber-optic assets through the Office of State Finance and their partnership with OneNet
- Provide state support/contracting for local systems required to transmit data to the SDE
- Streamline data demands and reporting burdens
  - by moving from a program-centric to a student-centric collection model, and
  - by eliminating redundant collections and reducing the number of times school districts must send the same data to the SDE
- Produce state and federal reports at the SDE using student level data
- Increase data use in the classroom by offering and supporting dashboards/tools for teachers and administrators at the state level

These goals reflect the concerns of districts that we’ve heard and we want to work with districts to find the solutions that make sense from both the local and the state perspective. The OSDE proposes to partner with interested districts that volunteer to work with the OSDE to systematically diagnose and resolve their data collection and reporting challenges so that as a result, our local and state data systems are less expensive more efficient and definitely more useful.

The first step will be a preliminary – and purely optional – survey that we will distribute to all districts on or about September 12, 2012. The purpose of the survey will be to help us prioritize the most common and greatest challenges, as well as determine which districts are interested in participating in the “Data Pipeline Project.”

Attached to this letter are two additional documents. The first provides more details about how a district can join the “Data Pipeline Project.” The second outlines the “Data Pipeline Project” scope and timeline.

If you have any questions prior to the release of the survey in early September, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [john.kraman@sde.ok.gov](mailto:john.kraman@sde.ok.gov).

I look forward to hearing from you and working together to find effective and efficient solutions to our most common and pressing challenges.

Regards,



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CC:

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Attached:

Data Pipeline Project District Participation Doc  
Data Pipeline Project Scope/Timeline Doc