

The K–12 Longitudinal Data System (ISEE)

Report highlights

February 2015

Many of the mistakes made in the failed ISIMS project in the early 2000s were repeated when developing and implementing the longitudinal system.

\$12 million

Cost to develop and implement

\$6.1 million

Paid with state funds

\$5.9 million

Paid with federal grant

\$1.4 million

Ongoing annual cost to maintain

The department is in an excellent position to revise and improve its data governance strategy.



Planning

Development and management of the data system has been IT centric.

The department underestimated impact on districts.

Challenges stemming from the initial implementation and ongoing management of ISEE persist, and data collection continues to burden districts.

The federal grant used for developing the data system did not specify elements—the department had flexibility to develop the system to its goals.

Implementation

The data governance structure was not designed to include meaningful stakeholder input.

The department did not have a formal process for communicating information about data to districts.

The department provided minimal training and technical support to districts during initial uploads.

Quality of communication from the department has improved over that in the first years of ISEE reporting.

The frequency of monthly uploads is burdensome to districts.

Recommendations for creating a sustainable system

Sustainability depends on the department strengthening management strategies and collaboration with stakeholders. The following recommendations are directed to the department:

Develop a formal data governance structure that includes structured input from key stakeholders such as districts and policymakers.

Document roles, justification for data collections, and the cost of district data collection.

Evaluate data elements and collection activities and align them with the goals, needs, and capacity of stakeholders.

To view the full report: www.legislature.idaho.gov/opec/

