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Background Brief on …

Database Initiative Project

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Background

The Database Initiative Project began in 1997 with the goal of standardizing the financial accounts of schools in order to generate reliable, comparable data on which to make policy decisions.

Why Collect School District Data?

Historically, schools have been a local issue; money was raised locally, and spending decisions were made by the locally-elected board. Consequently, accounting systems varied from district to district.

In 1990, passage of Ballot Measure 5 shifted the responsibility for funding education to the state. In 1991, the Legislature enacted the Oregon Education Act for the 21st Century, a measure that authorized the Oregon Department of Education (**ODE**) to determine state standards and develop state assessments based on those standards. Suddenly, the state was deeply involved in both driving curriculum decisions and setting funding levels. Yet actual spending and curriculum decisions were still being made at the local level. Questions arose as to whether districts were using funds efficiently. The school-based data system could not answer those questions for policymakers for two reasons: inconsistent financial reports, and lack of automation and reliance on manual paper systems.

Frustrated by this lack of data, the 1997 Legislature passed House Bill 3636. This measure directed the State Board of Education to adopt, by rule, a budget accounting system for school districts and education service districts (**ESDs**) to produce comparable spending information, and make the data gathered available to the public. Initially, 16 pilot districts were involved in developing the database system. Two years later, upon the successful completion of the pilot project, the department began statewide implementation of the Database Initiative Project (**DBI**). It can be accessed from the department's web page, at
http://www.ode.state.or.us/data/reports/toc.aspx

Oregon is one of only a handful of states that has used the Internet to both collect and report comparable education data.

How will the data be used?

The data submitted to ODE may be analyzed and used for a number of purposes:

- Legislators and other policymakers will have consistent data for all school districts in the state
- School districts will be able to compare their funding levels and student performance with other districts, driving improvements and efficiencies
- Communities and policymakers will have access to information about their schools, enabling them to make better decisions concerning them
- ODE will have the information to analyze and determine student outcomes for those who attend Head Start Pre-kindergarten programs
- Existing information gathering will be consolidated and redundancies eliminated
- Data will be incorporated into the Oregon Report Card
- Data will be used for modeling the impacts of different funding levels, in conjunction with the Quality Education Model, to show the effects of funding increases and decreases
- Data will be used to meet federal reporting requirements

Data Available

A number of reports are available from the DBI web page. Some of the information available includes:

- Funding Information: revenue, expenditure, and budgeting information, by school district
- School District Profiles: A snapshot for the school year for each district with information on student enrollment and performance; community demographics; staffing; spending per student; average class size; instructional time; and infrastructure
- District Comparisons: A comparative snapshot for the school year for two selected districts with information on student enrollment and performance; community demographics; staffing; spending per student; average class size; instructional time; and infrastructure
- ESD Profiles: A snapshot for the school year for each ESD with information on student demographics, member district staffing, infrastructure, and schools directly administered by ESDs

- School Profiles: A snapshot for the school year for each school with information on student enrollment, demographics, and performance; staffing; spending per student; average class size; instructional time; and infrastructure
- School Comparisons: A comparative snapshot for the school year for two selected schools with information on student enrollment, demographics, and performance; staffing; spending per student; average class size; instructional time; and infrastructure
- Average elementary class size, by school
- Hours of instruction for each grade within a school
- Student information, such as number of drop outs, high school completers, gender, ethnicity, number of those eligible for reduced school lunch
- Staffing number and type by school
- Technology: This report shows student access to computers and the Internet in the school

On the following pages, a partial sample report comparing two districts is shown.

Staff and Agency Contacts

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District Profile Comparison for Medford and Oregon City 2003-2004 School Year

	MEDFORD SCH DIST 549	OREGON CITY SCH DIST 62	MEDFORD	OREGON CITY	State
Student Enrollment	12,853	7984			
Average Daily Membership	12,271	7819	95.5%	97.9%	95.9%
Special Ed Students	1402	1242	10.9%	15.6%	12.8%
ESL Students	1061	469	8.7%	6.0%	10.2%
Students in Poverty	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Teen Parents	62	6	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%
Neglected & Delinquent Students	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Home School Students	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Private School Students	n/a	n/a			
Minority Students	2415	876	18.8%	11.0%	25.0%

Dropout Rate

		MEDFORD	OREGON CITY	State
1 Year Dropout Rate Grades 7-8		n/a	n/a	n/a
1 Year Dropout Rate Grades 9-12		n/a	n/a	n/a
4 Year Dropout Rate Grades 9-12		n/a	n/a	n/a

Staffing			**Percent of Total Staff**		
Licensed Staff	623.6	376.7	60.1%	50.2%	54.0%
Instructional Assts	156.5	116.2	15.1%	15.5%	15.7%
School Administrators	28.5	17.0	2.7%	2.3%	2.9%
Central Administrators	5.0	5.0	0.5%	0.7%	1.1%
Classified Support Staff	224.7	236.1	21.6%	31.4%	26.3%

	MEDFORD	OREGON CITY	STATE
General Fund			
Direct Classroom	$3560	$3,296	$3,616
Classroom Support	$968	$1,072	$1,080
Building Support	$903	$1,032	$1,092
Central Support	$329	$205	$317
Total	$5,761	$5,605	$6,104
All Operating Funds			
Direct Classroom	$4,088	$3,618	$4,070
Classroom Support	$1,065	$1,462	$1,395
Building Support	$1,128	$1,267	$1,418
Central Support	$342	$208	$346
Total	$6,623	$6,555	$7,228
Classes			
Elementary Class Size	29.6	27.3	23.8
Student:Teacher Ratio	22.9	23.4	20.46
Open Enrollment	n/a	n/a	

Infrastructure

	MEDFORD SCH DIST 549	OREGON CITY SCH DIST 62	State
Number Students per Computer	7.5	5.1	5.8
Number of Students per Internet Connection	n/a	n/a	n/a

Age of School Buildings as of December 2002		
Age	MEDFORD SCH DIST 549	OREGON CITY SCH DIST 62
	n/a	n/a

Student Performance

Percentage of Students At or Above State Performance Standards

Reading			
Grade	MEDFORD SCH DIST 549	OREGON CITY SCH DIST 62	State
No data found for specified schools and year			

Writing			
Grade	MEDFORD SCH DIST 549	OREGON CITY SCH DIST 62	State
No data found for specified schools and year			

Math			
Grade	MEDFORD SCH DIST 549	OREGON CITY SCH DIST 62	State
No data found for specified schools and year			

Problem Solving			
Grade	MEDFORD SCH DIST 549	OREGON CITY SCH DIST 62	State
No data found for specified schools and year			