**Legislative Fiscal Bureau**

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873
Email: fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov • Website: http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb

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May 21, 2013          Joint Committee on Finance          Paper #536

# WISEdash Data System
## (DPI -- Administrative and Other Funding)

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## CURRENT LAW

The state's longitudinal data system and WISEdash dashboard reporting system have been developed and maintained under a series of grants from the US Education Department, ending June 30, 2013.

## GOVERNOR

Provide $3,313,100 GPR annually in a new annual appropriation for the purpose of maintenance and development of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) longitudinal data system, WISEdash reporting and analysis tool, and the data warehouse. Provide expenditure authority of $3,570,000 PR annually in an existing data processing appropriation, for contractor payments to maintain and develop the data warehouse and reporting systems, which would be funded by the requested GPR. Delete $49,100 FED annually and 1.0 FED position, and provide $49,100 PR annually and 1.0 PR position, to convert an existing permanent FED position to a PR position.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

1.      The longitudinal data system (LDS) tracks data on pupil achievement and growth over time, at both the pupil level and in the aggregate. WISEdash provides secure access to, and analysis of, a variety of data sources on pupil enrollment, attendance, and performance data, including data imported from the data warehouse. The system includes the comprehensive data warehouse, reporting tools, and multiple security components. The U.S. Education Department provided a $3.1 million grant for 2005-2009 for the initial development of the data warehouse, and

development of additional applications and capacities has continued via a $5.5 million grant, which was provided from mid-2009 through April, 2013. In addition, in December, 2009, DPI received a third federal grant for $13 million to advance and improve the system. This grant ends in June, 2013.

2.      Using these three grants, DPI has built certain longitudinal data capabilities and integrated within the warehouse data from all of the following: (a) the individual student enrollment system (ISES) that assigns unique pupil identification numbers; (b) the Wisconsin student assessment system; (d) ACCESS for English Language learners, an alternative assessment for ELLs; (e) ACT and Advanced Placement data; (f) national student clearinghouse data, to track postsecondary enrollments and outcomes; and (g) student growth percentile data. The LDS provides data for reports on pupil-level data over time, as well as the school district performance report, a public report required by statute. The LDS also allows school districts to analyze pupil test score data over time, access for users to applications including an online school directory, an application security manager, coursework data collection with a pupil-teacher course link, as well as the WISEdash dashboard reporting tool.

3.      DPI's agency budget request indicates that items currently in development include: (a) an online licensure system; (b) interoperable data systems to allow the assigning of the Wisconsin student number at the post-secondary level, and the completion of data studies linking K-12 and post-secondary performance; and (c) early childhood education analysis, to allow for the eventual integration of early childhood data into the LDS data warehouse.

4.      WISEdash uses aggregate and detail data to build "dashboards" and reporting for several levels of users, including department staff, school districts, and eventually, the public. A data dashboard is a simple to use, graphical representation of performance indicators to allow easy access and analysis of several categories of data, beginning at the aggregate level, and allowing the user to then move into more detailed data in each area. According to DPI, this tool includes the following components: (a) a structured education data and reporting model; (b) a data warehouse to store and integrate data on a variety of subjects, including data imported from the LDS data warehouse; (c) role-based data access and dashboards (i.e., dashboards and security levels specific to different types of users); (d) public and secured reporting useful to a wide variety of users with diverse data needs; (e) "ad hoc" reporting functionality (allowing the user to choose, for example, a specific district and demographic); (f) advanced reporting for certain power users at the state and district levels to create reports for federal, state, and local reporting requirements; and (g) professional development resources to guide user understanding and use of dashboards and reports. The Department piloted the system in 21 school districts in June, 2012, providing certain data including enrollment, assessments, and pupil growth. Over the long term, DPI would continue to add more types of data, to enable additional research and analysis of information.

5.      DPI indicates that the goal is for WISEdash to provide access to pupil data beginning with early childhood programs, through the K-12 system, and then on to post-secondary institutions. In the short-term, DPI would add a public reporting portal, integrate school report cards, add value-added growth data, and complete the integration of national clearinghouse data. In the long-term, the data and reporting available through WISEdash will be used in conjunction with the statewide student information system (SSIS), school accountability and educator effectiveness

initiatives, the new Smarter/Balanced assessment system, and college and career readiness assessments. Data from SSIS would be imported into WISEdash to allow additional reports and analysis not available directly within the SSIS, allowing statewide and regional analysis, as well as connecting SSIS data with the data available from all the other data systems connected in WISEdash.

6.        Estimated annual expenses for hardware and software licensing and maintenance would be $253,800. Expenses for staff work, including a variety of software developers and analysts used to develop and maintain the data systems, was estimated by DPI to be $610,500 for DPI staff previously supported by the LDS grant for the portions of their work related to that system. In addition, DPI requested that $3,570,000 annually be provided for 21.0 FTE contractors, at a cost of $170,000 per contractor.

7.        The Governor's recommendation reduces the funding allocation for contractors by $1,121,200 annually, or approximately 6.6 FTE positions, according to DPI's estimated contractor costs, leaving $2,448,800 annually for this purpose.  A corresponding reduction was not made to the PR funding, so the Committee could reduce PR funding by $1,121,200 annually.  Staff from DOA indicate this is a cost-saving measure, although it is possible that the reduction could delay development of some new functionalities for the system. Funding for the contractors would be provided in the WISEdash GPR appropriation, which would be billed by the data processing PR appropriation. Finally, DPI requested, and the Governor recommended, that $49,100 FED and 1.0 FED position would be deleted, which has been funded through the federal LDS grants. Instead, the bill would provide $49,100 PR and 1.0 PR position in the agency's existing data processing appropriation.

## ALTERNATIVES

1.        Approve the Governor's recommendation.

2.        Modify the Governor's recommendation to delete $1,121,200 PR annually, which would align the PR funding with the GPR provided in the bill.

| ALT 2 | Change to Bill |
|---|---|
| | Funding |
| PR | - $2,242,400 |

3.        Delete provision.

| ALT 3 | Change to Bill | |
|---|---|---|
| | Funding | Positions |
| GPR | - $6,626,200 | 0.00 |
| FED | 98,200 | 1.00 |
| PR | - 7,238,200 | - 1.00 |
| Total | - $13,766,200 | 0.00 |

Prepared by:  Layla Merrifield