

2013-15 Budget Issue Paper WISEdash and WISElearn

[LFB 2013-15 Budget Summary: Page 391, #5 and Page 392, #7]

Governor's Proposal:

WISEdash

Provide \$3,313,100 GPR annually in a new annual appropriation for the purpose of maintenance and development of the Department's longitudinal data system (LDS), WISEdash reporting system, and 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.

WISElearn

Provide \$1,450,000 GPR in 2014-15 and 1.19 GPR position in a new annual appropriation for WISElearn, a statewide digital learning portal, including \$91,000 for the positions and \$1,359,000 for supplies and services such as hardware, software licensing, web hosting, and content acquisition and management. Require DPI to develop and maintain an online resource to: (a) provide educational resources for parents, teachers, and pupils; (b) offer online learning opportunities; (c) provide regional technical support centers; (d) provide professional development for teachers; and (e) enable videoconferencing.

DPI Position: Support

Rationale for Support:

WISEdash - Where we store and how we analyze and report PK-12 data

- ❖ DPI has begun implementing a new data warehouse and reporting environment, known as WISEdash. WISEdash incorporates the DPI's longitudinal data system (LDS), a comprehensive data warehouse storing pupil and school data from a variety of sources, as well as a business intelligence tool that provides dashboards and reports. Going forward, WISEdash will house all of the data from the statewide student information system (SSIS), as well as data from other state data collection systems, and provide reports and analyses to districts, schools, teachers, parents, students, and the public from all of these sources. This will streamline on a statewide basis how education data is collected, stored, analyzed, and reported leading to cost savings, better data quality, and data in real time.
- ❖ Continued funding and development of WISEdash is critical to the success of major initiatives like school and district accountability, educator effectiveness, and assessments, as well as realizing the full potential of the SSIS. The success of these initiatives relies on not only the collecting of data through the SSIS and other sources, but on the ability to analyze and display high quality and timely data and customizable reports through WISEdash to a variety of audiences. Without a new funding source, DPI

will not be able to sustain the system that has been built or add critical new reporting or analysis tools to the system.

- ❖ To date, the development of WISEdash has been entirely funded through three federal LDS grants. The Department has already commenced statewide rollout of WISEdash for the 2012-13 school year using federal funds. The last of these grants will expire on June 30, 2013, leaving the department with no state resources to continue to support WISEdash. The Governor's 2013-15 budget requests GPR resources to replace current federal funding that is scheduled to expire and to maintain existing levels of staffing and commitment.

WISElearn - How teachers can use PK-12 data and provide online and blended learning opportunities to students

- ❖ Digital opportunities for educators and pupils vary widely from district to district. Too often, a district's access to financial resources dictates the level of investment in technology and digital learning. In order to maximize efficiency and ensure all students in each of Wisconsin's 424 school districts have access to online and blended learning, the DPI is proposing the creation of a Digital Learning Portal (WISElearn) in the 2013-15 biennial budget.
- ❖ The Digital Learning Portal would be a single point of entry (like a Google homepage) that provides access to three separate pieces of software:
 1. Learning Management System – Software that allows for the development of courses or learning modules with digital content. Several districts use something like this currently, but DPI believes the state has an obligation to ensure all schools and students have access to online and blended learning.
 2. Content Repository – Software that allows storage of and access to digital content. This piece of software, which DPI proposes the state buy from the Educational Communications Board, would allow the state to pull together content from around Wisconsin and around the world for all Wisconsin students and teachers to access. Further, teachers could “tag” or “rate” specific content based on how effective it was with their students, making resources more useful and efficient for teachers than a time-intensive Google search.
 3. Collaboration Tools – Software that would enable web-conferencing and collaboration on a statewide basis for every school and district in the state. Classrooms across the state could connect with one another to facilitate online courses, engage in virtual field trips, or bring in guest speakers from around the state or the world. Each school would be able to host meetings, provide, or link into professional development sessions, or webinars from a desktop or mobile device.
- ❖ The budget request for WISElearn would establish regional technical support to provide professional assistance to IT staff within schools and libraries. Regional support staff would work both virtually and in-person with the many Wisconsin school districts that do not have a high degree of technical expertise when it comes to IT, particularly smaller, rural districts that lack dedicated IT staff. Regional support staff would also work to help districts maximize their existing broadband connections, software capabilities, and assist with key functions such as accessing virtual courses.
- ❖ Finally, providing funding for WISElearn enables the department to meet the requirement in the Governor's budget that the state superintendent promote digital learning.