![Center for the Integration of IDEA Data logo]

STATES REALIZING DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH DATA INTEGRATION

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Eleven states have worked with CIID, over the past three years, to integrate their IDEA data and to implement Generate, a software application that improves data quality and automates reporting through standardization. These eleven states have realized notable data quality improvements that will be shared in this brief to help states across the nation understand the value of data integration and implementation of Generate.

Data Quality Improvements Realized

The eleven states engaged in data integration and Generate implementation activities have identified issues of data quality in collection and reporting and realized data quality improvements that include:

- Establishing a governance and decision-making process to review and authorize business rules logic to be applied to the data. Managing issues and input from multiple users of the data ensures that the business rules make sense given the different uses of the data.

- Documenting the process for pulling data from source systems and loading it into Generate. Once data is loaded into Generate and EDFacts files are created, part of the validation process is comparing the legacy system with files created by Generate, which has uncovered issues in the existing process ranging from code that may not have been updated to steps that could be more standardized.

> **CIID's Definition of Data Integration:**
>
> The effort to unify the work of multiple people, business processes, and data systems to improve data accuracy and make data reporting and use more efficient.
>
> https://ciidta.grads360.org/#program/glossary

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> *"Using this [data integration] process drastically decreased the amount of time between the Part B Data Manager starting his review and submitting the files than the previous process, and there is more confidence that his checking of the data matches what was submitted to EDEN than we had with our review in [Microsoft] Access."*
>
> ED*Facts* Coordinator and IT Project Manager

- Implementing an automated process to dynamically pull a list of schools and districts. This automated process prevents a team member from manually typing the list into the code. Using an automated process reduces the risk of typographical errors and is more flexible and resilient when schools or districts are added or deleted.

- Documenting business rules and automatically applying them via Generate to ensure the unduplicated reporting of Discipline data. The rules that were manually applied are now part of the extract-transform-load (ETL) programming logic and are applied consistently and uniformly up front rather than as a manual step at the end of the process. States can have more confidence in the fidelity of the data across years.

- Documenting business rules that outline what transformations take place to load data into Generate and to create EDFacts files. This information is inaccessible unless it is shared more broadly and documented.

- Eliminating the need for a separate Child Count collection. States noted discrepancies in the count of students with disabilities between their IDEA Child Count and general education membership collections. They analyzed which elements were being collected in both systems and identified a need to add data elements (primary disability and educational environment) to the general membership collection for more complete data and therefore eliminated the need for two collections.

- Multiple team members review and validate the data before it is submitted. If one staff person or an independent contractor develops and submits EDFacts files then state staff miss the opportunity to understand and review the data prior to submission. Having multiple staff review the data can proactively uncover errors before data is submitted so they can be corrected.

- More planning and discussion around IDEA data to ensure timely and accurate submissions.

- Communication and training with the local education agencies (LEAs) to engage in discussions on the importance of timelines and data quality.

Achieving Improved Data Quality in Your State

Improved data quality gives state teams confidence when collecting, reporting and using the data. Your state can get started by following the seven steps in the CIID Data Integration Toolkit and working as a team to document processes and review and validate data.

Want more information on how to get started with IDEA data integration so your state can realize data quality

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improvements? Contact the CIID team at CIIDTA@aemcorp.com.

Additional Resources:

States Improving Data Quality Through Data Integration

Data Quality Through Data Integration: How Integrating Your Data Will Help Improve Data Quality

How Strong Data Governance Improves Data Quality and Data Integration

CIID Data Integration Toolkit

Part B IDEA Data Processes Toolkit

Contact Us:
By email at CIIDTA@aemcorp.com
Visit the CIID website for more information at CIIDTA.org