Educational Data Integration

HB 367 OPI Data Modernization Status and Overview Report

July 1, 2025

Office of Public Instruction

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Introduction to Educational Data Integration

In this reporting period, PowerSchool and OPI have continued to work through Milestone 4a: Deployment of Connected Intelligence and Milestone 5a: Base deployment of Analytics and Insights modules. Data from the State Edition of Infinite Campus is being replicated into Connected Intelligence (data lake), and the data for all districts is being continually loaded into the dashboard system. The dashboards are being refined to ensure the data is accurate and we are working together to correct any logic issues that have resulted in data discrepancies. We are collaboratively working through issues with the security file replication to add users to the Analytics and Insights platform; this replication will also allow us to utilize an SSO solution for school personnel to access the platform. We are also continuing to work on the crosswalk of Analytics and Insights roles to determine user security and access for district staff. State assessment data was refined and is ready to load into the dashboards, and we have identified that we will also incorporate MAST data in the dashboards.

Data Modernization Vendor Partner Role

PowerSchool and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) continue to meet weekly with progress reports on this project. The vendor has assisted with the state SSO security solution of Analytics and Insights and worked collaboratively with all parties on the Virtual Private Network setup process. OPI has met with the vendor to start the process of dashboard fitting, and this process will continue through at least February and March. The vendor's expertise and involvement demonstrate their dedication to making the project a success and they are crucial in helping Montana's education system transition to modernized data management, in line with House Bills 367 & 949.

Partnership Foundations

PowerSchool has forged a strategic partnership with Snowflake to establish a robust data lake through their Connected Intelligence product. The connector is set up to allow Connected Intelligence to replicate the data from the State Edition of Infinite Campus into the data lake, which in turn will feed Analytics and Insights and its modules. PowerSchool is working diligently to create a resilient and agile infrastructure that enables efficient data utilization, sharing, and analysis to ensure the success of Montana's data modernization project.

Contractual Framework

OPI and its vendors established a Contract and Statement of Work to clarify responsibilities, expectations, and deliverables. This framework is broken into seven milestones, with milestones 4 and 5 having two sub-milestones. The milestone and delivery schedule are provided in this report.

Unified Direction

OPI and PowerSchool worked together to set clear goals for program management. The team meets weekly with project status updates and the Project Managers from both organizations meet regularly to touch base. The aim is to improve services, streamline IT and data interactions, make better use of data for everyone involved, cut costs, boost security, and improve overall governance.

Preparation and Solutioning

Work has been ongoing for the implementation of Analytics and Insights and its deployment to schools. We are replicating relevant data tables to make sure that we are utilizing Analytics and Insights at its full capacity based on the data currently being collected. There are considerations being made for the collection or display of additional data utilizing a second instance of Analytics and Insights that will utilize more school SIS data. Our teams continue to meet regularly and have scheduled multiple additional connections to discuss specific issue areas. OPI is currently QA-ing the data before the solution is fully deployed for schools to utilize. This also includes additional team meetings to look at source-to-target mapping. Additionally, the decision was made to pull data from districts that use PowerSchool as their Student Information System (SIS) through the standard connector into Connected Intelligence, which will also allow us to simplify state data reporting for these districts. OPI, the districts, and PowerSchool are working collaboratively to map data extracts for state reporting. Kalispell, Great Falls, and Billings have successfully deployed their VPN connection, which will serve as a mapping tool for other districts. The remaining PowerSchool districts that will require a Virtual Private Network (VPN) are Belt and Polson. OPI and PowerSchool are in the beginning phases of getting Community Engagement, the public dashboards, analyzed for build and deployment.

Financial Outlook: Project Expenditures & Future Projections

3-Year PowerSchool Contract Cost by Milestones: Including Implementation, Hosting, Licensing, Professional Services, Maintenance & Operation

Note: Recurring cost encompasses the ongoing costs associated with software and technology solutions utilized in the Montana OPI data modernization project. These costs include software licensing, release management, infrastructure hosting, and data integration. It also incorporates annual price increases, which may be influenced by factors like inflation and expanded usage.

Contract Term 1 - By Milestone	One Time	Recurring	Total	Delivery Date	Completed
Milestone 1				9/8/2023	
PS Consulting Services	$73,728.00		$73,728.00		✅
AWS Consulting Services	$300,000.00		$300,000.00		
Subtotal			**$373,728.00**		
Milestone 2				9/15/2023	
PS Consulting Services	$2,304.00		$2,304.00		

				Date	Status
AWS Consulting Services	$20,000.00		$20,000.00		✓
Subtotal			$22,304.00		
Milestone 3				9/22/2023	
PS Consulting Services	$3,456.00		$3,456.00		✓
AWS Consulting Services	$17,500.00		$17,500.00		
Subtotal			$20,956.00		
Milestone 4				TBD	
PS Provisioning Services	$18,000.00		$18,000.00		
Subtotal			$18,000.00		
Milestone 5				June 2025	
PS Customization Services	$774,000.00		$774,000.00		
PS Provisioning Services	$230,956.00		$230,956.00		
CI - Annual Subscription		$1,351,498.81	$1,351,498.81		
UI - Annual Subscription		$1,231,331.42	$1,231,331.42		
Subtotal	$1,004,956.00	$2,498,795.25	$3,503,751.25		
Initial Term Discount		($1,000,000.00)	($1,000,000.00)		

Total (Contract Term 1)	$1,489,944.00	$1,498,795.25	$2,988,739.25	July 1, 2023
Post-Deployment	One Time	Recurring	Total	
Annual Term 2		$2,633,114.41	$2,633,114.41	July 2024
Annual Term 3		$2,733,172.76	$2,733,172.76	July 2025
Contract Total (All 3 Terms)	$1,489,944.00	$6,865,082.42	$8,295,843.48	

Educational Data Integration Payment Schedule

The 3-year term fixed cost project entails creating a payment schedule table that incorporates several key columns to manage the Educational Data Integration project expenses effectively. The table includes:

1. **Subscription & Deployment Service Cost**: This column captures the initial fixed cost for the project, covering subscription fees and deployment services for each year of the project.

2. **Annual Increase %:** This column represents the annual percentage increase in costs, reflecting any anticipated inflation or adjustments over the three-year period.

3. **Annual Increase $:** This column calculates the dollar amount increase for each year based on the percentage specified in the previous column.

4. **Subtotal**: This column provides the total cost for each year, accounting for both the initial cost and any annual increases.

5. **Managed Services**: This column includes any additional costs associated with managed services or ongoing support throughout the project's duration.

6. **Subtotal**: Similar to the previous subtotal, this column sums up the costs for each year, including managed services.

7. **Invoice Total**: The final column computes the overall project cost by summing up all expenses over the three- year term, providing a comprehensive view of the project's fixed expenses.

3-Year Annual Payment Schedule

Payment Settlement Date	Subscription & Deployment Service Cost	Annual Increase %	Annual Increase $	Subtotal	Managed Services	Annual Increase %	Annual Increase $	Subtotal	Invoice Total
Initial 3 Yr Term 7/1/23 – 6/30/26									
7/1/2023	$2,929,556.31								$2,929,556.31
7/1/2024	$2,304,507.44	1.9%	$43,786.97	$2,348,364.41	$284,750.00			$284,750.00	$2,633,114.41
7/1/2025	$2,348,364.41	3.8%	$89,237.85	$2,437,602.26	$284,750.00	3.8%	$10,820.50	$295,570.50	$2,733,172.76
Total Contract Amount									**$8,295,843.48**
Optional Contract Term 7/1/26 – 6/30/28									
7/1/2026	$2,437,602.26	3.8%	$92,628.89	$2,530,231.14	$295,570.50	3.8%	$11,231.68	$306,802.18	$2,837,033.32
7/1/2027	$2,530,231.14	3.8%	$96,148.78	$2,626,379.93	$306,802.18	3.8%	$11,658.78	$318,460.66	$2,944,840.59

█ **Paid Invoice**

Contract Addendum – signed June 30, 2025

Payment Settlement Date	Subscription & Deployment Service Cost	Annual Increase %	Annual Increase $	Subtotal
Initial 2 Yr Term 7/1/25 – 6/30/27				
7/1/2025	$466,650.00			$466,650.00
7/1/2027	$466,650.00	5%	$23,332.50	$489,982.50
Total Contract Amount				
Optional Contract Term 7/1/27 – 6/30/28				
7/1/2027	$489,982.50	5%	$24,499.14	$514,481.64

Note: The 2024 payment to PowerSchool was approved for payment based on a thorough review of deliverables and progress made to this point. That information is substantiated through the progress outlined in the Table of Milestone Delivery Schedule, Project Timeline, and the sign-off acceptance of milestones 1-3. The 2025 payment is pending as of this report.

Core Features of the Vendor Products

PowerSchool Products

1. **Analytics and Insights** will assist Schools and OPI with data analytic tools:

    o   Facilitate schools in making data-informed decisions to enhance student outcomes.

    o   Provides technical and data analytic tools.

    o   Early warning system using artificial intelligence/predictive analytics to identify at-risk students.

2. **Community Engagement** will enhance OPI's ability to publicly display:

    o   Demographic information

    o   Enrollment / Attendance

    o   Statewide assessment data

    o   Graduation and dropout

    o   School expenditures data

3. **Connected Intelligence** will facilitate and enhance data sharing with:

    o   Data lake technology

    o   Data collection and integration tools

    o   Data governance tools for data sharing

These applications for data modernization bring forth a range of compelling advantages, including centralized data lake construction for consolidated data storage, improved analytics and data visualization capabilities, and fortified data security measures.

Table of Milestone Delivery Schedule

Milestone #	Deliverable	Delivery Date	Completed
1	Draft Assessment Document	September 8th, 2023	✓
2	Montana Review & Feedback of Assessment Output	September 15th, 2023	✓
3	Delivery of Assessment & Future Solution Document	September 22nd, 2023	✓
4	Organizational Change Management	November -December 2023	✓
4a	Infinite Campus Connector to Data Lake	February 20th 2024	✓
4	Connected Intelligence Application Initial Deployment (with State Infinite Campus data)	March 29, 2024	✓
4a	PowerSchool Connector to Data Lake	March 2024-July 2025	
4b	PS SIS Integration Analysis	April 24, 2024	✓
5	Analytics and Insights Application Deployed	November-December 2024	
5	Analytics and Insights OPI Customer Education	May 2024-September 2024	✓
5	Analytics and Insights Customer Education	May 2024-September 2025	
5	Analytics and Insights Training Deployment	September 2024-September 2025	
~~4a~~	~~PS SIS Custom Connector Build~~	~~August 2024-February 2025~~	~~No longer utilizing custom connector~~
4a	PS SIS Integration for Hosted Districts: Replicating data into Connected Intelligence	August 2024-August 2025	
4a	Set up VPNs for On-Premise PS SIS Districts	August 2024-August 2025	
6	Post Deployment Assessment	June 2026	
7	Solution Acceptance & Final Project Sign-Off	July 2026	

Project Timeline

Date	Activity	Status
April 07, 2023	Request for Proposal Release	Completed
June 20, 2023	Vendor Tentative Award	Completed

June 30, 2023	Contract & Statement of Work Executed	**Completed**
July 20, 2023	Project Kick-off Meeting (PowerSchool & OPI)	**Completed**
July 24-27, 2023	Organizational Change Management Executive Interviews	**Completed**
August 9-10, 2023	Cloud Assessment Workshops	**Completed**
August 14-31, 2023	Application Assessment Workshops	**Completed**
August 24, 2023	Organizational Change Management Assessment Report	**Completed**
September 1, 2023	Maturity Assessment Report	**Completed**
September 22, 2023	Commercial off the Shelf Solution, Architecture & Deployment Strategy	**Completed**
October 31, 2023	OCM Stakeholder Engagement Plan	**Completed**
February 20, 2024	Connection and replication of data from Infinite Campus to Connected Intelligence (CI)	**Completed**
March 29, 2024	Connected Intelligence initial data load verified and begin mapping for ongoing replication	**Completed**
April 24, 2024	Complete Custom Connector Analysis for PowerSchool Districts (Both on Premise Districts and PS cloud-housed districts)	**Completed**
April 30, 2024	Ongoing replication of Infinite Campus State Edition into Connected Intelligence	**Completed**
May 2024-September 2024	Analytics and Insights Customer [OPI] Education	**Completed**
~~**May 2024-February 2025**~~	~~Build Custom connector for PowerSchool Student Information System (SIS) replication into CI~~ ***The decision was made to utilize a standard connector to more easily display data for PS Schools. Additional conversations about connectors are ongoing.**	~~**In Progress (70%) *pending completion of other work**~~
January-June 2025	Connection from on-premises PowerSchool Districts to Connected Intelligence (5 VPN connections)	**In Progress (60%)**
March 2024-August 2025	Analytics and Insights Base Module	**In Progress (52%)**
September 2024-September 2025	Analytics and Insights Training Implementation	**In Progress (10%)**
August 2024-November 2024	Replication of all districts data into Unified Insights	**Completed**

October 2024-August 2025	Complete standard conformance/configuration and ETL QA for dashboards	**In Progress (75%)**
October 2024-July 2025	PS Dashboard QA	**In Progress (99%)**
December 2024-July 2025	OPI Dashboard QA	**In Progress (25%)**
December 2024-August 2025	Dashboard fitting and consulting for SIS data in Analytics and Insights	**In Progress (20%)**
April 2024-September 2025	Risk Analysis Module (pending Analytics and Insights initial deployment)	**In Progress (10%)**
April 2024-September 2025	Student Readiness Module (pending Analytics and Insights initial deployment)	**In Progress (10%)**
April 2024-November 2025	Community Engagement Module	**In Progress (10%)**
April 2024-September 2025	Replication of Additional Data Sources into Connected Intelligence	**In Progress (15%)**
November 2024-October 2025	Customizations of Dashboards	**In Progress**
June 2026	Post Deployment Assessment	**Not Started**
July 2026	Solution Acceptance & Sign-Off	**Not Started**

The percentages in the above table are updated for each report. These percentages are accurate as of May 2, 2025.

Considerable progress has been made in milestones 4 and 5. Milestone 4 primarily addresses the implementation of Connected Intelligence (data lake). In the last year, CI has been provisioned, connectors made, and data replication is occurring. Milestone 5 encompasses the implementation of Analytics and Insights and its modules for deployment. This required the setup of CI. Connectors from CI into Analytics and Insights are currently being implemented. The OPI team continues to meet with PowerSchool to complete dashboard fitting. OPI is working through their QA to ensure that all data is accurate and the dashboards are displaying information that is pulled from the correct sources to make actionable, quality visualizations for schools.

Milestone 1-3 Acceptance Criteria

RUBRIC	SCORE	SCORING SCALE	TOTAL
Product exceptionally addresses project requirements / EXCEPTIONAL	4	EXCEPTIONAL	18 – 20
Product significantly addresses project requirements / STRONG	3	STRONG	14 – 17
Product somewhat addresses project requirements / NEUTRAL	2	NEUTRAL	10 – 13
Product minimally addresses project requirements / INADEQUATE	1	INADEQUATE	0 – 9
Product does not address project requirements at all / UNACCEPTABLE	0		

CRITERIA	MILESTONE 1	MILESTONE 2	MILESTONE 3
Does the document show understanding of the problem and its requirements?	3	3	3
Does the document use appropriate data sources?	3	3	3
Does the document identify an accurate and extensive inventory?	3	3	4
Does the document correctly identify problems and outline appropriate solutions?	2	3	3
Will executing/implementing the document be simple or complex? And will the vendor provide adequate support throughout the project?	2	2	2
Simple = Higher Score; Complex = Lower Score			
TOTAL SCORES	13	14	15

With the delivery of the final assessment product on September 23, 2023, milestones 1, 2, and 3 were completed. Each milestone was scored as noted above and the final product was determined to be strong. The final criterion remains at a "2" due to complexity of the project with required customizations.

Current Activities as of June 30, 2025

Workstream	Activity Overview	Outcomes
Connected Intelligence (CI)	The team is working on solidifying the connection between GEMS and Connected Intelligence. OPI is continuing internal conversations to identify additional data sources for replication into Connected Intelligence. Virtual Private Networks are being built to connect hosted and on-premise PS SIS districts to Connected Intelligence. Conversations with Belt and Polson will resume in summer as requested by districts.	GEMS replication timeline is being developed. MAST was determined to be part of the contract and will not need to be defined as an additional source for replication into Connected Intelligence. Kalispell, Great Falls, and Billings have established VPN connections
Analytics and Insights	The OPI has signed an addendum to the contract extending the service contract and KTO hours. The addendum added a second instance of Analytics and Insights intended to be used for schools that opt in to direct connectors. These direct connectors will allow schools to take full advantage of the modules purchased by OPI. The initial authorization setup was tested and confirmed for the single sign-on solution. Ongoing file replication will need to be tested and confirmed. A crosswalk between current roles and available PowerSchool Analytics and Insights roles is being completed. Dashboards have been populated with data from all school districts in the state. Dashboard fitting is in progress. Dashboard consulting has started between OPI and PowerSchool. This will help to inform the training plan for the rollout to districts. Developing a timeline for the implementation of Analytics and Insights Community Engagement module for public-facing dashboards.	As of June 26, it appears that previously noted issues have been resolved. Will continue to test by adding new users at OPI before testing school users. Assessment files are being moved into Analytics and Insights. Solidifying training plan with input from stakeholders. The dashboard environment has been provisioned, including web domain for eventual public access. Dashboard fitting is in progress to ensure all connections and customizations are in place. OPI and PowerSchool continue to work on clarifying and updating logic for dashboard display.

	OPI is working on QA-ing the dashboards in Analytics and Insights. As issues are identified, tickets have been submitted.	
Stakeholder Partnerships	OPI is an active participant on the Education and Workforce Data Governance Board. There have been ongoing working group meetings at regular intervals since the March 2024 Board meeting. OPI has put a temporary hold on the Data Modernization Steering Committee. This committee has members from schools across the state. We are working to focus on completing the initial dashboard setup, then will refocus our steering committee meetings to better fit the rollout of the project. The OPI hosts a K-12 Data Taskforce meeting on a quarterly basis. During this meeting, which has members from across the state, including legislators, school administrators, teachers, and parents, we routinely provide updates on the MIDAS project. OPI continues to attend Power Panel and other interest group meetings hosted by PowerSchool. These groups gather PowerSchool partners throughout the country to provide updates and insights from their own projects. The OPI continues to attend Montana conferences to provide updates on this project to school stakeholders as requested.	OPI will continue to participate in the Board's working groups to continue the progress of this group and the data modernization project. The Steering Committee meetings have been put on hold to focus on completing dashboard fitting, QA, and deployment. We value their insight into the project, including how we can tailor solutions to help with data collection and reporting. The K-12 Data Taskforce provides another avenue for updates on the project and allows us to get valuable feedback from key stakeholders on issues related to educational data. OPI will continue to be involved in attending Power Panel and other information sessions offered by PowerSchool to further our knowledge and strengthen our team.

Education and Workforce Data Governing Board

The Education and Workforce Data Governing Board is a partnership between the Department of Labor and Industry, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and the Office of Public Instruction. The meetings were on a temporary hold during the legislative session. Our office continues to attend and actively participate in any meetings of the Board. We have also been active in the three subgroups established in March 2024:

- Data Steward Workgroup: This workgroup ensures the continued technical development and long-term planning of the linking and sharing of education and workforce data among the contributing agencies, consistent with the current and emerging standards for technology

- Data Governance Group: responsible for developing policies related to the linking and sharing of data; identifying the Board's purpose and goals in those policies; and developing policies for the data requests or MOU agreements in the scope that has been made available

- Data Research Work Group: responsible for developing the education and workforce research agenda; describing how the contributing agencies will work together to improve understanding of the connection of primary and secondary education, higher education, and workforce data

At the latest meeting of the Board on June 30, 2025, the following tasks related to the data modernization project were discussed:

- Contract Addendum: The OPI informed the Board about the new addendum extending the service contract and the addition of direct connectors for all schools. The OPI has purchased additional modules: Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and Continuous Improvement Planning, to incentivize districts to opt-in while providing a more expansive product for their use. The goal is to create an expanded data inventory to support the research agenda of the Board.

- Research Agenda: The Board approved a new research agenda with each of the three agencies taking ownership of their sponsored research goals. Each of the agencies will report progress of the research at future Board meetings.

- Data Governance Policy: Revisions to the Board's governance policy were approved, including the introduction of a data request report for external data requests.

Education Data Integration through Data Modernization

Goals and Vision for Montana OPI

Goal 1: Improve Services
Goal 2: Improve IT/Data Workforce Interactions
Goal 3: Increase the Value of IT/Data for Operations and Business Impacted Audiences
Goal 4: Reduce IT/Data and Other Operating Costs
Goal 5: Security Risk Management and Continuity of Operations
Goal 6: Increase Governance Maturity

Addressing Statutory Compliance for Educational Data Integration

The information in the following section has been previously detailed in a prior report, and there have been no changes or updates for this section.

Montana OPI's Approach in the Data Modernization Project

- Montana's OPI is committed to legislative compliance via its Data Modernization Project, aligning with House Bill 367 and 949 from the 68th Legislative Session in 2023.

- The project aims to seamlessly integrate systems, enhance insights, provide academic support, ensure security, and facilitate secure data sharing across education.

Integration: Connected Intelligence

- The Data Modernization Project prioritizes Comprehensive Data Integration, in line with 2023 House Bills 367 and 949, to consolidate educational data from diverse sources.

- This approach improves data consolidation efficiency and accuracy, meeting legislative requirements effectively.

Holistic Student Insights: Analytics and Insights

- Analytics and Insights, in compliance with 2023 House Bill 367, offers educators a comprehensive view of student data, enabling a deep understanding of individual student performance and needs.

- This alignment with legislative intent empowers educators to meet compliance mandates and support students more effectively.

Individualized Academic Enhancement: Analytics and Insights/Risk Analysis

- Analytics and Insights and Risk Analysis tools, in line with 2023 House Bill 949 objectives, empower educators to utilize student data for personalized academic interventions.

- This approach, focused on identifying at-risk students and customizing interventions, directly supports the bill's intent to enhance student outcomes.

Robust Data Security: Connected Intelligence/Analytics and Insights

- Montana OPI prioritizes data security in alignment with 2023 House Bills 367 and 949, leveraging Connected Intelligence and Analytics and Insights.

- Robust security measures, including encryption, role-based access controls, audits, and data protection standards, are rigorously enforced to safeguard sensitive student information and fulfill compliance obligations.

Secure Data Sharing: Connected Intelligence

- The Secure Data Sharing component of the Data Modernization Project aligns with the security provisions of 2023 House Bills 367 and 949, facilitating controlled and encrypted data sharing for confidentiality and authorized access.

- Montana OPI's Data Modernization Project not only ensures compliance with legislative mandates but also empowers educators with tools to improve student outcomes, all while maintaining high data security and privacy standards.

Enhancing School Customer Experience for Educational Data Integration

Bridging Legacy & Modernization

- Ensuring a smooth link between existing software and new data modernization infrastructure is vital.

- Maintaining uninterrupted compatibility and coordination between older systems and the new framework is essential. This means addressing differences in data formats, communication methods, and operational procedures to ensure seamless connectivity. This collaboration supports ongoing operations and improves functionality, making the transition to modernized data systems seamless.

Elevating Performance

- Leveraging data modernization to streamline processes, optimize data management, and achieve a new level of operational effectiveness, resulting in improved productivity and resource allocation.

Data Integrity

- The data modernization project strengthens data accuracy and reliability, fostering trust in decision-making processes within educational institutions by ensuring data integrity and consistency, enabling confident, data- informed decisions that enhance educational outcomes and organizational effectiveness.

Reduced Downtime

- The data modernization project streamlines operational processes, minimizing system downtime and disruptions, enhancing efficiency, and promoting a resilient educational environment that supports seamless learning experiences and administrative excellence.

Data Modernization Steering Committee

OPI has put together a group of school representatives to help provide oversight, guidance, and strategic direction for the Data Modernization project. The committee has offered valuable insights into both the current data collection practices and makes informed recommendations to ensure alignment with organizational goals. Their advisory role extends to risk assessment, resource allocation, and resolving issues that may arise during the project life cycle. The committee meets regularly to review project progress and provide guidance. The committee includes subject matter experts in educational data systems, data management, and data analysis along with other high-level stakeholders. Members of the committee have been gathered from across the state. For more information and updates on these meetings visit our website. These meetings are on hold as the OPI works on the deployment and analysis of the Analytics and Insights dashboards.

Currently, the committee is on hold as we work on deploying the dashboards. Their expertise will be invaluable as we look to test different aspects of the project, including security setup, visualization QA, expanded connectors, ease of state data reporting, and other facets.

Charting the Course Forward

Navigating the Next Steps in Educational Data Integration

OPI is using the MIDAS data modernization project to prioritize and ensure an educational system that is more efficient, transparent, and responsive to the needs of its stakeholders. The project has made progress since our last report, and we look forward to the ongoing partnership with our vendor, PowerSchool.

PowerSchool is working with districts across the state with self-hosted ("on-premise") PowerSchool Student Information Systems to build VPNs to data reporting and the connection to Connected Intelligence and Analytics and Insights. The goal is to reduce the burden of data entry on PowerSchool Student Information System schools. Building a better connection for districts utilizing PS-SIS will allow for simplified data reporting throughout the year. This will make sure that there is no difference in how often data is refreshed in the Analytics and Insights dashboards that schools will have access to based on less frequent flow of data from information systems. Meetings have also been established between PowerSchool and the OPI EDUCATE team to work on building exports to meet the needs of Montana state reporting.

PowerSchool and OPI completed a re-kickoff in-person meeting on March 14. During this meeting, our teams met to discuss the current status of the project and lay the groundwork for the next steps and the future of the project. OPI is working to bring more resources to the project and to ensure that the scope of the project meets the needs of our schools and fulfills our commitment to enhance customer experience and modernize school data at the state level. We continue to seek out input from schools by attending conferences and meetings to provide updates and get feedback on what the needs of districts are. PowerSchool and OPI will start with pilot districts from the Steering Committee to be able to set up security, access protocols, and early training.

Upcoming Activities and Efforts

- Weekly Project Status Update Meetings with Vendor
- Ad-hoc meetings with Vendor to discuss specific issues, including: Behavior, Source-to-Target mapping, Dashboard consulting, etc.
- Quarterly K-12 Data Taskforce updates
- Updates as requested by interim legislative committees
- Quarterly Education and Data Workforce Governing Board meetings
- Other scheduled sub-group meetings as part of our commitment to working with our partners in the Education and Data Workforce Governing Board
- OPI will continue to add data components for loading student assessment data into Analytics and Insights
- Continue work on building Virtual Private Network (VPN) connections for remaining on-prem districts
- Continue responding to data load tickets
- Complete dashboard fitting and QA

- Finish implementation of the security solution and Configuration for State, District, and School Users
- Connector Deployment for all districts that opt in
- Community Engagement Build and Deployment
- Ongoing dashboard consulting meetings
- Crosswalk user role security in GEMS with available roles in Analytics and Insights

Sustainability of Project

The Office of Public Instruction is committed to providing the best possible tools for schools, teachers, students, and families. As we move forward with the MIDAS project, it is easy to see the value these products will have for education in Montana. However, there are several factors to be considered as we look to the future:

- The contract signed in June 2023 was for a subscription through June 30, 2026, to finish the build of the project.

- The ongoing subscription cost for the product is substantive. As outlined on page 6 of this report, the cost is estimated to be over $2.6 million for FY2027 and over $2.9 million for FY2028.

- Beyond FYs 2027/2028, there is an estimated 3.8% annual increase for both the Subscription/Deployment cost and the Managed Services cost. There is an estimated 5% annual increase for the products added in the addendum signed June 30, 2025. For an additional contract term of 7/1/2028-6/30/2030 (FYs 2029 and 2030), this would result in total invoices of:

  - $3,596,950.25 for FY2029

  - $3,740,116.84 for FY2030

Ongoing subscription funding was requested as part of the Governor's proposed biennium budget. Other things to be considered may include: staffing from OPI to support schools in using the available products; any changes that need to be made to the product(s) as the result of changing statutes or rules; and changes in the subscription cost that may arise based on the expansion or change of the scope of the project.

Additionally, the OPI understands that this project is of great value and significance to our stakeholders. We remain committed to providing the best possible product for our schools. As such, we are working on strengthening the team working on the project by bringing in additional resources and working in collaboration with the legislature on the potential for additional funding in decision packages that have been heard by the Joint Subcommittee on Education.

Communication Plan

OPI is committed to providing ongoing communication about this project to all stakeholders. As part of this goal, we maintain the webpage dedicated to the project with current information. Project overview videos are also available on the website.

We also provide regular updates in the following venues:

- Bi-monthly Board of Public Education meetings
- As requested by the legislative committees during the legislative session
- Quarterly Legislative Interim Committee meetings (during interim season)
- Quarterly K-12 Data Taskforce meetings

OPI has maintained communication with the PowerSchool Customer Education team to begin planning district training options that align with feedback we are receiving from our school partners. A formal training plan is in development. We are also going to be planning webinars for districts for additional training opportunities. Part of our consideration for training will include ongoing training opportunities for district staff after the initial training rollout. This will allow for refresher-style opportunities as well as training for incoming district staff and district staff who may change roles between years.

Our team is happy to answer any questions you may have about this project. Please reach out to Anna Hoerner.

Anticipated Future Reporting Periods:

August 25th, 2025
October 26th, 2025
December 21st, 2025
February 23rd, 2026
April 27th, 2026
June 29th, 2026