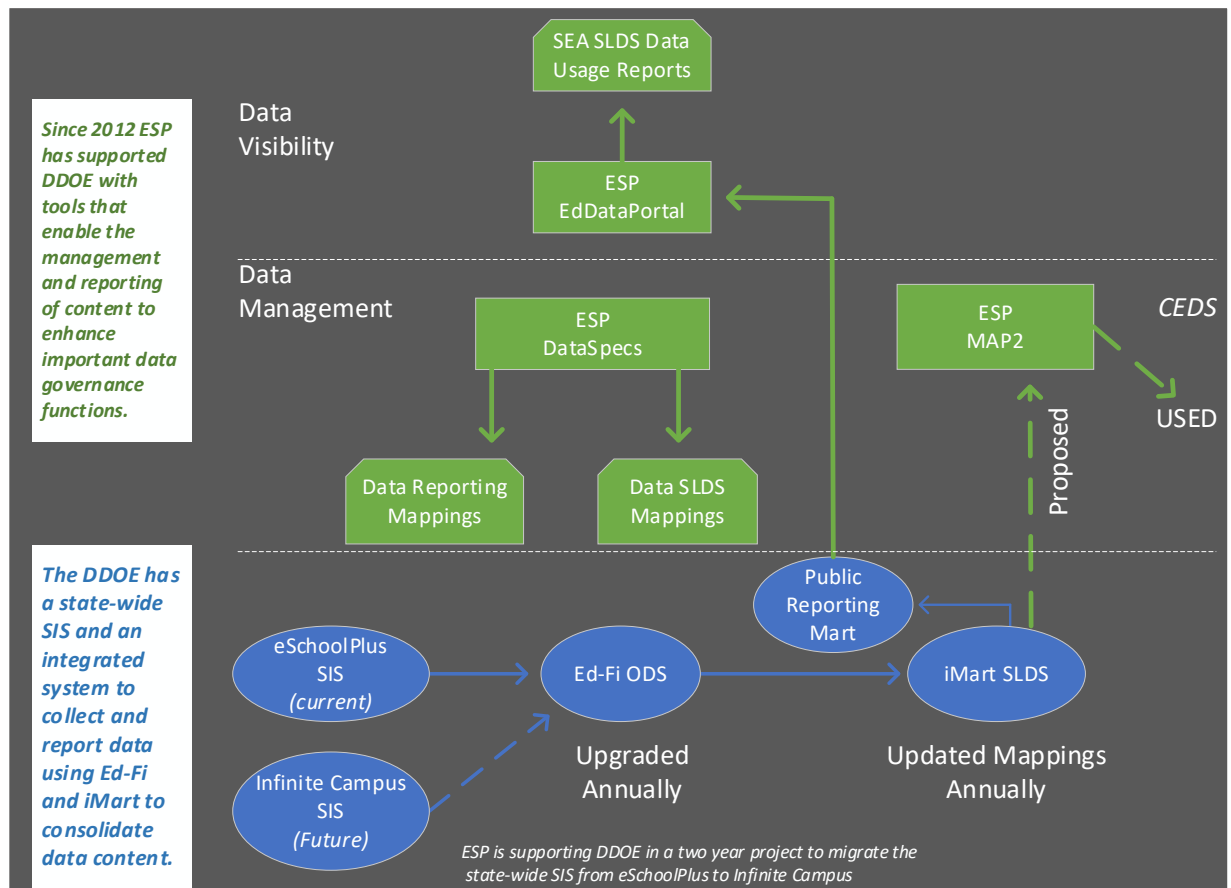


Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) Case Study

In 2011 ESP Solutions Group assembled a team of educational technology specialists in response to a proposal in Delaware to build and deploy a longitudinal warehouse using Race-to-the-Top funds. A unique aspect of the proposal was that it required that the respondents guarantee that the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) be able at completion of the project to assume maintenance and support of the warehouse themselves with only limited use of contractors. The warehouse became operational in 2013, is in operation today, and is largely maintained by DDOE.

One aspect of the project in which ESP has continued to provide direct support is in data governance and metadata (data about data) documentation. Over more than 20 years of managing educational projects, ESP has established a set of tools and Quality Project Management (QPM) processes to enable SEAs and LEAs establish control over their data and their usage.



The preceding graphic shows DDOE data systems in blue and ESP data governance components in green. The ESP data governance components provide data management and visibility to DDOE staff and other stakeholders who use and depend on the data. Data come from a statewide eSchoolPlus SIS and flows through an Ed-Fi ODS to a state longitudinal data system implemented in iMart. DDOE uses ESP DataSpecs® to document and maintain the data mappings from each of these transitions. This provides a comprehensive representation of how data move from districts through operational systems into long-term longitudinal analytic data to stakeholders. The representation can be adjusted and maintained as

systems evolve increasing internal and public confidence in the information while also increasing its utility. This is done by use of the EdDataPortal. DDOE has constructed a public reporting mart from the available data and presents them in a public portal from which usage reports can be generated. In the future, DDOE is considering extending the support to include ESP's MAP2™, a package that facilitates mapping to the US Department of Education's Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) data format. As DDOE migrates from eSchoolPlus effective in the 2025-2026 school year, ESP will be updating the data in DataSpecs to reflect the new system as part of our ongoing support.

These systems brought benefits to two different communities in Delaware. Internal to DDOE, they documented their various mappings to the Ed-Fi Operation Data Store, based on the Ed-Fi standard. They had a mapping report 'Mapping to Standard Repository Excel', which allowed a view of the source to Ed-Fi to warehouse data flow. Then they created a mapping of their iMart data warehouse fields to their *Source* fields from the ODS. This data flow was then distributed internally and with select vendors to understand the data flow and what data are captured. This improved the ability of DDOE to understand data flow internally. There were several benefits to DDOE stakeholders.

- In 2024, Delaware began a two-year move to a new SIS vendor. For the 2024/25 school year, they intend to map the new vendor's source data to Ed-Fi through DataSpecs, allowing them to view both the old and new SIS mappings for the required work.
- The University of Delaware is using the Department's Data Dictionary to refine their research data requests.
- The Mid-Atlantic Regional Education Lab (REL) is comparing Delaware's data dictionary to other state education agencies in the region to help understand what data is being collected and are available for analysis.

With the planned future extensions, the DDOE is in the position many SEA's would envy. The agency can manage internally and present to stakeholders an amazing depth of data governance and control of their information resources. There are complete and easily understood representations that answer the most critical questions.

- What are the external sources of the data and how do they enter the DDOE environment?
- What happens to the data as it moves from source to operational to longitudinal systems?
- How do I know what source data element relate to actionable results?
- Where exactly is my data being used and by whom?
- Are there holes in my collection and processing steps that need addressed?

If your organization would benefit from gaining control of your data governance and being able to address these questions, drop us a line.

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