



Susan Tave Zelman

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Ohio Department of Education  
Amy Andres, Executive Director, Operations  
25 S. Front St.  
Columbus, OH 43215

November 28, 2005

Dear Stakeholders:

I am extremely pleased to announce that on November 17, the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences recognized Ohio as one of 14 states to receive funding for the design and implementation of a statewide longitudinal data systems. Ohio will receive \$5.7 million over three years to develop and complement its existing data system and sustain a unified statewide data exchange system to address federal and state directives for timely and accurate data and to serve students, teachers, school districts, researchers and regional information centers. Significant portions of this grant will support our efforts to develop Ohio's Data-Driven Decisions for Academic Achievement (D3A2) project.

Of the \$5.7 million, 13 percent is budgeted for training educators on the use of data for decision-making, while 28 percent of the grant will support the Information Technology Centers and large cities in the implementation of a national data definition and a standard transfer mechanism for sharing data. The remainder of the grant will support project management around the design and development of a statewide longitudinal database; implementation of a comprehensive data dictionary; expansion of the statewide data warehouse; decision support capabilities; and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the system. Information concerning the distribution of the funds will be available soon.

The Longitudinal Data System (LDS) is a key element in our commitment to create and sustain a unified statewide data exchange system to address federal and state directives for timely and accurate data and to serve the agency's customers— students, teachers, school districts, researchers and regional information centers.

I want to convey my sincere appreciation to you for supporting ODE's application to this grant. This would not have been possible without your collaboration and support.

Sincerely,

Amy Andres  
Executive Director, Operations  
Ohio Department of Education