

**IT INVESTMENT CAPITAL FUND
PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

To: Information Technology Strategy and Investment Committee
John Vittner, Office of Policy & Management

FROM: Linda Goodman, Deputy Director OEC
Pietro Rosato, Fiscal Manager, OEC

AGENCY/PROJECT NAME: State Department of Education / QRIS

PROJECT MANAGER: Angela Hammond, SDE IT Consultant: Project Manager

REPORTING PERIOD: Project Inception through 12/31/2015

Total Funds Requested: \$6,000,000

Bond Commission Approval(s): Date: Jun 2013 Amount: \$ 2,100,000

Accumulative Total Capital Fund Expenditures to Date: \$1,447,100 - Expensed / \$305,283 Encumbered / \$347,619 Remaining

Brief Project Description/Summary:

The project focus is to create an Early Childhood Information System (ECIS) to be used by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) staff to perform their daily work responsibilities. A public facing portal of early childhood data accessible to state department staff, the general public and vendor staff to support the newly formed OEC is also a project focus.

OEC programs in scope include: Workforce Registry, ChildCare Licensing, Head Start/Early Start and School Readiness, Publicly Funded Child DayCare Centers, Children's Trust Fund (includes Nurturing Family Network & Help Me Grow), DPH Home Visit (includes Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting - MIECHV), United Way – ChildCare 211, Care 4 Kids, State Department of Education Teacher Certification, and Quality Rating Information System.

Update for January 2015: Removed SDE Pre-Kindergarten Information System (PKIS) from original scope of project. An assessment of the current SDE PKIS System was completed. The decision by SDE Data Chief and OEC Bureau Chief was to shut PKIS down in August 2014. Project team's focus for Phase 1 Release is to build a new solution permitting current PKIS users to register children, assign unduplicated SASID (State Assigned Student Identification) numbers and capture other key OEC data needs through a web portal. The OEC programs in scope for this new web portal are Head Start/Early Head Start, School Readiness, and Publicly Funded Child Day Care Centers.

Summary of Progress Achieved to Date:

- (1) Phase 1 Release for ECIS has been designed and developed for access of over 400 Pre-K facilities across the state to enter child and family level data. This application will also be available to OEC staff to access the child level data and run reports. However, it has not yet been deployed as previously planned.
- (2) Deployment timelines required a change from the original scope (e.g., original four funding types to seven) were deemed a high priority and approved by OEC Management, Linda Goodman. The new funding types required additional analysis and rules. In particular, the addition of Smart Start, Pre-School Development Grant (PDG) Federal and PDG Quality Enhancement.
- (3) A design change limiting the view of the child data based on facility rules was also deemed a high priority by OEC Management due to security and confidentiality concerns. This limited view was more complex than originally anticipated due to Group User roles.

- (4) The integration of the new service oriented architecture for SASID manager with SDE's existing PSIS Registration code caused delays due to a resource needing to work on other legislatively mandated priorities.
- (5) The movement of the application code from the SDE development environment to the DAS/BEST staging and production environments issues were resolved by SDE resources by guiding the DAS/BEST resource step by step to accomplish the code migration.
- (6) Webinar and in person hands on training was completed to over 250 individuals across the State of CT who will utilize ECIS.
- (7) Analysis on the program component of ECIS has identified a quick win technical solution by creating a matching engine. Requirements are being finalized and a developer consultant has been hired to develop this solution. He is targeted to begin at the end of January.
- (8) A new OEC FTE has been hired by OEC to be the Application Administrator and ongoing maintainer of the system. His skill sets are currently being assessed, however the plan is for Level 1 Help Desk analysis by SDE occur first then escalation issues assigned to him.

Issues and Risks:

Issue:

- (1) Changes to scope and items were deemed necessary by OEC management and agreed upon by SDE IT Management have delayed the deployment of our application code and rollout.
- (2) Application testing tools for assisting developers to migrate code through the various environments, i.e., development, staging and production, has impacted delivery of solid code sets for testing. Significant defects are encountered and need to be fixed requiring multiple rounds of testing.
- (3) Although hired consultants have knowledge and skills in project deployment methodologies, the lack of this needed skill amongst state developers along with conflicting priorities imposed on SDE caused missed target project dates and goals.

Risk:

- (1) SDE IT staff resources can be impacted by conflicting priorities due to, but not limited to legislatively mandated work efforts on single resources causing delays in project tasks.
- (2) Requirements changes and high priority OEC items has delayed the rollout to the end users.

Next Steps & Project Milestones:

2016

- (1) January – User Acceptance Testing with OEC staff and specific facility users.
- (2) January – Production rollout of ECIS application.
- (3) February – Assign specific User Name and Password Security access to ECIS to over 400 community Pre-K facility staff according to their identified Security Roles/Access.
- (4) March - Convert existing child data collected on spreadsheets for Pre-K study required by the Legislature as a baseline for ECIS data.
- (5) February – Signoff on requirements for program matching engine.
- (6) March - Priority decisions to Phase 2 ECIS.
- (7) March – Begin analysis on Home Visiting phase 1 scope.