Members of the Policy Advisory Group

A lot has happened since we met last January. Dr. Dean Folkers started at the end of February as the new administrator of the Data, Research and Evaluation team. I will be staying on as the SLDS Grant Director/Project Manager. NDE staff attended the MIS/SLDS conference in Washington, DC, with a goal of learning all we could about dashboards and Ed-Fi. At an after conference review, we determined that there are many advantages to going with Ed-Fi for our dashboard. We put a proposal to go with the Ed-Fi Alliance to the Commissioner and he approved it. We have received approval from NDE and Washington to hire a full-time person to lead the development of the dashboard. We also redirected the work of our programmers to free up a person to devote to building the dashboard. We have contacted the Ed-Fi Alliance and are beginning the review of the license agreement to work with them.

The next major steps involve continued discussion and decisions about selecting districts to pilot the project, determining the principles that will guide the development, and establishing a timeline for major activities. These will be the agenda items for the March 13, 2013 meeting (See below).

At the last meeting, we began a discussion of criteria for selecting pilot districts. We identified that pilot districts should

* Have different SIMS to ensure the dashboard will work with any district that wants to participate
* Include districts of different sizes and geographic location
* Have staff that have time to devote to the project and can contribute expertise
  + The grant will provide up to $75,000 per pilot district to cover staff expenses
  + There are sufficient funds to include up to 10 pilot districts

From the dashboard discussion, we identified the dashboard needs to

* Provide information at the teacher, school and district level
* Include trend data
* Be customizable, if possible, to allow districts to add options.

Agenda – March 13, 2013

* Progress update
* Evaluation Plan
* Criteria for the pilot districts
* Principles to guide dashboard development
* Timeline