



ADVISER Early Adopter Program Guide

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Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard Early Adopter Program Overview

The Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard Early Adopter Program (EAP) is an exciting opportunity for our districts to gain early access to key new product capability and assess the benefits for their schools.

The first stage of the implementation in the 2013-2014 school year involved the limited production releases (LPRs) of dashboard prototypes to 9 districts that elected to participate in pilot releases of the data dashboard and these were namely: Bancroft Rosalie, McCook, Ponca, Boone Central, Neligh-Oakdale, South Sioux City, Fairbury, Omaha and Valentine. LPRs were part of the development process for the data dashboards from an early stage, and their feedback has played a foundational role in the organization and functioning of the dashboards. The LPRs represented a range of enrollment sizes, geographic locations, and student information system (SIS). This range was intended to help NDE troubleshoot potential issues that might arise for a broad spectrum of future EAP adoptees.

The second stage of the early adoption stage of select districts will be rolled out in the 2015/16 year. The remaining districts will implement ADVISER in 2016/17 in the first wave.

Early access to new capabilities allows users to bring the associated benefits on line for their districts faster. Looking at new offerings prior to full release also gives districts the ability to directly influence future product releases.

The Early Adopter Program (EAP) has been chosen as it has proved successfully to:

- **Identify additional requirements.** At present, the majority of districts has diverse requirements and needs and may have limited concept of what the Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard solution should provide. Early adopted solutions can be designed based on current requirements, with the expectation that the use of the solution will encourage feedback that will lead to the identification of future requirements.
- **Confirm the goals and objectives.** Early adoption can be used to test whether the planned solution enables NDE to meet its goals and objectives. It is often a very meaningful exercise to rollout specified features to a limited number of districts. Their feedback can help determine if additional features should be added based on actual need.
- **Promote increased awareness of a capability.** One of the objectives of early adoption is to market NDE's new Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard solution. The early adopters will help to provide a "preview" of the full deployment capability, as well as to begin to create immediate value for the students.
- **Facilitate the transition to a new environment.** Early adoption will enable NDE to gauge the response of a targeted set of users to the intended final capability. Techniques used on the early adopter program can be refined to decrease the learning curve for future groups that implement the solution.

- **Mitigate technical risks.** Early adoption will assist in the identification and control of technical problems to ensure stability and performance in the final production environment.
- **Test the rollout process.** Early adoption programs help to ensure that the schedule that is planned for full-scale delivery is complete and scaled correctly. They can help to verify that the logistics (supplies, space, and equipment) are well planned, that the training is complete and in the right sequence, and that the required support processes are in place.

Early adopters of Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard will provide valuable feedback because the system will provide functionality that is real, not modeled. The overriding purpose of the early adoption program is to minimize risk and prepare for the statewide implementation.

ADVISER Benefits

The Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard is a web-based view of student and staff data that provides educators with a quick and easy way to personalize instruction and make data driven decisions. The Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard consolidates data from multiple systems which enables educators to efficiently analyze large amounts of information. Users will benefit from the following features:

- **Consolidation of data from multiple systems and data sources**
 - Integrates data from multiple systems to provide a more complete and comprehensive view of students and staff data for more robust data analysis
 - Provides timely access to student data enabling educators to quickly adjust curriculum and instruction when necessary
- **Detailed, comprehensive, and up to date student profiles**
 - Daily updates of student profiles
 - Highlights and organizes students participating in each program
 - Provides easy access to each student’s contact information
 - Provides easy access to historical course and assessment performance
- **Visualization of student and staff data**
 - Highlights positive trends and flags negative trends over time
 - Highlights students that are meeting attendance and discipline goals and flags those students that are struggling
 - Highlights students that are meeting goals on state assessments, local assessments and grades and flags those students that are low performing
 - Highlights students that are meeting Advanced Course criteria and flags students that are not currently enrolled in Advanced Courses to ensure high performing students are challenged in the classroom
 - Highlights students that are meeting college ready benchmarks on the three main college entrance exams – PSAT, SAT and ACT
 - Identifies students that have not taken the above college entrance exams
 - Provides easy drill down for more detail (e.g. historical data, student exception lists)
 - Improves data literacy amongst educators
 - Facilitates a culture of data driven decision making

- Provides a comprehensive set of instructional improvement tools to meet the state’s education initiative.
- Enables districts to efficiently identify data quality issues
- **Early warning system and intervention catalog**
 - Flags students that are at-risk of dropping out based on key indicators (Attendance, Behavior, Coursework)
 - Identifies students who are at-risk of dropping out and have not been assigned an intervention
 - Identifies specific areas where the student needs improvement
 - Based on the specific areas of improvement, users assign targeted interventions to get the student back on track
 - A library of district specific interventions that users can rate for future users

Data Warehouse Benefits

The Data Warehouse is a centralized storage space to comingle, organize and integrate Nebraska’s P-20 longitudinal data into a common model. Users will benefit from the following features:

- **Consolidation of data from multiple systems and data sources**
 - Automated consolidation of data from each district’s many source systems
 - Automated daily updates from all participating districts
 - Reduces the number of data collections
 - Improves data quality and consistency within and across all districts
 - Integrates data from multiple systems to provide a more complete and comprehensive view of students and staff data for more robust data analysis
 - Provides timely access to student data enabling educators to quickly adjust curriculum and instruction when necessary
 - Provides a low-cost and uniform service to access technology, applications and data
 - Available to all participating school districts of any and all sizes
- **Aggregation of longitudinal data**
 - Consolidates and efficiently organizes the state of Nebraska’s education data
 - Improves communication and collaboration by providing a system of information that can be accessed by a wider range of stakeholders (e.g. legislators, researchers, educators, citizens)
 - Facilitates a culture of data-driven inquiry and decision making
 - Improves data literacy amongst educators
 - Enhances educators’ ability to analyze historical data and identify trends that can inform education policies
- **Security**
 - District’s longitudinal student data is only accessible by the district users.
 - State and other users have access to aggregate data which is not identifiable to an individual

- **Business intelligence and analytics reporting interface (future implementation)**
 - Improves data analysis to support Nebraska initiatives such as data-driven decision making, continuous improvement, data consolidation, and education intelligence
 - Improves the time it takes to analyze data at the district and state levels
 - Consolidates large amounts of data into manageable and meaningful visualization tools
 - Supports analysis of student performance, college and career readiness and success, instructional improvement initiatives, teacher evaluations, student intervention and professional development effectiveness
 - Transforms data into actionable information
 - Efficient turnaround of reports that can be used to make data driven decisions directly impacting student outcomes

Accountability Data Mart Benefits

The Accountability Data Mart is a subset of the Data Warehouse that organizes and aggregates specific subsets of data that are required for accountability reporting. Users will benefit from the following features:

- **Unifies the accountability data collection requirements**
 - Automates the transfer of all accountability data from the Data Warehouse
 - Streamlines the process for data validation, auditing, and updates
 - Efficient turnaround of district accountability reports via NDE Portal
- **Reduces effort and costs**
 - Eliminates the district’s burden of manually organizing and submitting accountability data while also providing a transparent process for district review and approval.
 - Reduces costs and effort associated with validating accountability submissions
 - Improves data quality, and in return, reduces man hours associated with data cleansing
 - Provides a financial return from substantially-reduced accountability costs that can be directed toward teaching and learning initiatives
 - Enables districts to redirect efforts toward the continuous improvement of student outcomes
- **Security**
 - District’s accountability data is only accessible by the district users.
 - State and other users have access to aggregate data which is not identifiable to an individual

Early Adopter Program Deployment Plan (readiness checklist)

Districts that are interested in becoming early adopters will have to make certain commitments to the Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard program at NDE. The full commitment will be defined after the EAP evaluations are completed. An early adopter approach will be designed to ensure that districts with an interest in becoming early adopters can get on board quickly with the Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard solutions.

The commitment requirements may consist of the following:

- Deploy the dashboard to your district within the 2015/16 school year
- Commit to deploying the dashboard to all schools within the district
- Work with district staff to ensure accurate and valid data is submitted for use by the dashboard and accountability reporting
- Participate in the accountability pilot testing and new automated submission process.
- Receive a commitment from the district SIS vendor to support the EAP program for your district
- Document best practices and lessons learned for future District implementations.

Districts that are interested in becoming ADVISER early adopters should understand the resource commitments required for effective implementation. NDE requires that districts provide resources for training, support, and leadership roles throughout the implementation process (see the ADVISER early adopter roles and responsibilities table).

Early Adopter Roles and Responsibilities

NDE recommends that ADVISER Early Adopters assign the following roles and responsibilities to help coordinate implementation and provide training and support to end users.

| Role | Responsibilities |
|---------------------|---|
| EAP Primary contact | <p>This person is responsible for participating in EAP meetings with NDE or ESUCC. They will be the primary contact as it relates to the district’s involvement. Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminating information about the EAP to district stakeholders • Gathering feedback from district EAP resources to share with NDE and other EAP districts • Reporting status of implementation, rollout, training and other deliverables |

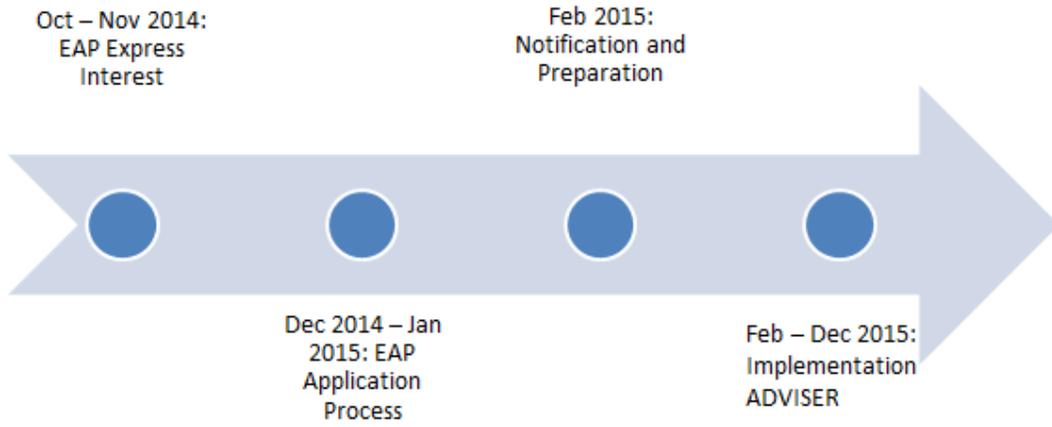
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| | <p>required by the EAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting on critical success factors • Coordinating review and feedback on EAP materials • Collecting lessons learned • Identifying and reporting on any barriers to program success. |
| <p>Data Steward(s)</p> | <p>Data validation, Dashboard QA, identification and resolution of data related issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with SIS vendors to load and validate district data into the ADVISER dashboard. • Identifying data issues in the SIS • Working with SIS vendor or district staff to resolve data quality problems • Validating accountability data feeds to the ADVISER Data Mart (new accountability reporting) • Validating data feeds and data in the ADVISER Data warehouse |
| <p>Dashboard Administrator</p> | <p>For smaller districts, this role is often handled by the data steward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position title claims set management, user security level access, • Configuring district specific metric thresholds, district and school goals. • Uploading image files for schools, staff and students. • Setting up system wide messages • Enabling/disabling the dashboard as required for maintenance and upgrades • Validates user login and access to the dashboard |
| <p>Intervention Catalog Administrator/Coordinator</p> | <p>This individual will be responsible for working with the district Intervention team to identify interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a review process for the ADVISER Intervention Catalog • Involved in creating training materials and |

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| | <p>training the intervention team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates the creation of interventions for the ADVISER Intervention Catalog • Set the security for viewing interventions at the student level |
| <p>IT/Admin - (ESU NOC and/or district IT staff)</p> | <p>Responsible for working with the ADVISER data center team to setup the district environment to support the ADVISER dashboard. The following are examples of the activities and responsibilities expected by this role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for working with the data center team to setup and validate the district integration with the Nebraska Single Sign On (SSO). • Responsible for installing, setup and verification of secure file transfer between district systems and the ADVISER data center. Will be used for transferring assessment files for loading into the dashboard environment, retrieving error/warning log files, etc • May be required to support Student Information System (SIS) vendors in setting up and troubleshooting interfaces between the district SIS and the ADVISER data center. |
| <p>Professional Development Staff (ESU SDA and/or district staff)</p> | <p>These individuals will be responsible for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing the Training Plan for district rollout • Developing courses and materials to support district PD • Developing courses to be used as assets for statewide rollout • They may also be involved in reviewing materials developed by other EAP participants and providing feedback • Involved in district PD training or train the trainer |
| <p>Curriculum Development (ESU and/or district staff)</p> | <p>These individuals will be responsible for</p> |

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| | <p>developing curriculum to integrate the ADVISER with data literacy initiatives at the district level. They will coordinate with other curriculum development staff at district or school level.</p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in development of the ADVISER curriculum training plan • Develop materials specific to district needs • Coordinate the rollout and training within the district • Align curriculum development and training with EAP rollout plan and timeline |
| <p>Support Team Members</p> | <p>Support team members will provide technical and end-user support for the district. These individuals may be responsible for creating support tickets for reported problems, issues and feature requests.</p> |

Early Adopter Program Timeline

The interest form for the Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard Early Adopter Program is available electronically and is open to all Nebraska districts. A selection process will commence based on a number of contributing factors, but not limited to the readiness of the SIS vendors in staging data, the capacity to support a number of districts at a time, regional and size representations, etc. The EAP districts meeting the criteria will be asked to provide additional information to assist in the decision for the EAP and subsequently invited to complete an application form. The districts not selected for EAP will be placed on the priority list for the first wave of statewide implementation. A target of 50 districts to be operational by the end of the 2015/16 school year has been set.

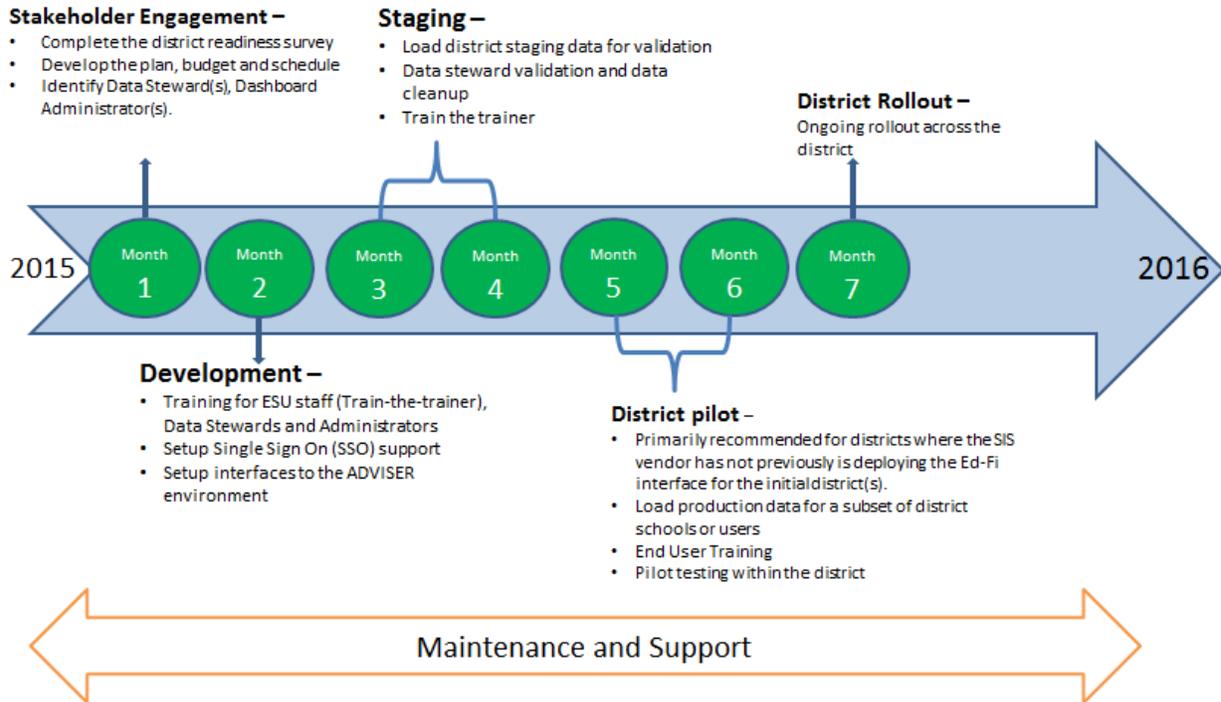


ADVISED Application Process

After initial Assessment District can complete the **ADVISED EAP Application Form**:

<http://survey.education.ne.gov/index.php?r=survey/index/sid/131349/lang/en>

Estimated Timelines for EAP Activities



Typically it takes a SIS vendor 4-6 months to develop an Ed-Fi interface. This needs to be taken into consideration when developing the district and state rollout plans. If the SIS vendor is developing a new interface, then the development phase duration should be increased by 4-6 months.

Support

To facilitate integration with the ADVISER Dashboard project, the stakeholders involved are the Educational Service Units (ESUs) the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC), NDE and Double Line Inc. (DLP) who have been engaged by NDE to lead and support to successfully prepare the limited production release and early adopters to use the dashboards.

| Group | Responsibilities |
|-------|---|
| DLP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with districts to identify their requirements and help implement dashboard to best practices. • Ad-hoc consulting and input on the dashboard design and implementation. • Identify dependencies, develop aligned schedule and coordinate joint integration activities within the projects. |
| ESUCC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Configure the staging and production environment to support a new district • Setup vendor production sandbox (development) • Validate SSO with district IT Support staff • Provide operational support for vendor development |
| ESU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend training on Dashboard, DWH, Accountability Data Mart • Customize and develop training materials as required by the district • Provide training for data stewards, district trainers (train the trainer) • Work with ESUCC to integrate with ADVISER environment • Develop district specific training materials • Perform training for district training staff (Train the trainer) • Data Literacy training for district curriculum and instruction staff • Continuous improvement for onboarding, training, support |
| NDE | <p>All Nebraska ADVISER Dashboard early adopter initiatives will be coordinated through NDE to ensure a consistent, integrated approach and will be responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a communication plan for user groups and vendors, and obtain feedback actively, while advertising how important feedback is to the early adoption success; • Manage expectations of users and stakeholders, and ensure motivation by active communication of the program's progress and success; • Adopt a proactive approach to identify and manage risks; • Operate the early adopter programs in a way that will match the full capability operating strategy as closely as possible; • Expand the early adopter user base only when expectations are met or adjusted; and • Use the early adopters to verify scalability and overall performance. |

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