YES Prep Ed-Fi RFP Project: Q&A Session 1

August 2nd 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Central

Question: Applications that use the CDP-Common Data Platform (internal YES Prep term for a central database that is part data warehouse and part operational data store) as an application database; will we still want this to use it as an application database?
Answer: No. As part of this implementation we will move our legacy applications to dedicated operational data stores. Once this is done and the Ed-Fi Data Platform is in place, we will deprecate the legacy DW (internally called "Common" or CDP)

Question: Are we using the unique ID from eSchoolPlus?
Answer: No, it's not our primary unique ID. We have an internally generated unique ID that maps to other unique IDs (for example partnership IDs, state ID, etc.)

Question: What is our mechanism for staff IDs?
Answer: There is an internally created unique staff ID. We have just purchased a new product that will be implemented in the fall, so this will be an evolving answer. However, we know that structurally, we will need a unique person ID that is mapped to the other unique staff IDs (similar to the student unique ID model).

Question: Pg 5 – Reference to Appendix A, C, & D; reply with detail that we have on data dictionaries for SIS, Common and AP results.
Answer: Appendix A and C are accessible in the user-interface of the eSchoolPlus and Eduphoria AWARE programs and will be made available during the implementation phase of this engagement. We receive the information in Appendix D via flat files and the data dictionaries are publicly available from the College Board.

Question: Are we contemplating the need for a matching algorithm for unique IDs?
Answer: Some mechanism for reconciliation is necessary as part of the solution.

Question: Clarification on SIS (Student Information System, YES Prep uses Sungard eSchoolPLUS), how is SIS being fed data?
Answer: We have a single central system. However, we have partnerships with two other school districts. Two campuses use Skyward (in partnership with Spring Branch ISD); nightly ETLs receive data to our CDP Common Data Platform (completely separate stream of data – not going into our eSchool Plus instance). Have received verbal commitment from Skyward that they can provide an XML Ed-FI compliant export. The other partnership schools use the YES Prep SIS and nightly ETLs move reporting/accountability data to the partner district systems.

Question: What is the name of our new HR system?
Answer: Sunguard eFinance Plus

Question: Prefer train the trainer or end user trainer?
Answer: We would prefer end user, but realistically train the trainer is what we have to implement because of school calendar and logistics.

Question: Pg 4 – Listing Use Cases as examples, in format of proposals, asking for responses to Use Cases. How should vendors address the specific use cases in the proposals? As general domain of work? Or as specific responses?
Answer: We would like a direct response as a demonstration to how vendors would tackle these types of engagements.

Question: Pg 4 – Early Warning – Propose vendor model or YES Prep? Pitch model that vendor feels is most valuable. Clarifying whether or not YES Prep has a model in place?
Answer: No, we do not have a model currently in place.

Question: Pg 4 – Use Cases – Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), Is report and functionality described scoped and defined by YES Prep? Or should vendor conduct requirements gathering to determine what needs to be built?
Answer: The assumption is that YES Prep and vendor would scope and define in partnership together as part of this engagement.

Question: Deliverable 3, pg 7 – Under reaching end users, data access, data visualization. Can we clarify what we mean?
Answer: We mean open connections (e.g. via APIs, ETLs, XML, etc.)

Question: Ed-Fi dashboards – Do you mean out of the box Ed-Fi dashboards? Or something different?
Answer: We don't have anything right now, so anything is a net positive. We could reasonably see either path, integrated with early warning or separate.

Question: Pg 8 – Who is the audience for training materials?
Answer: It's going to depend on the topic. For example, Ed-Fi dashboards would be end-users via a train the trainer methodology. For the Ed-Fi platform, would be highly technical audience.

Question: Pg 8 – Del 4, Letter D - "as a service" - How does this work functionally? And how should the pricing be presented?
Answer: With this engagement, we want to build Ed-Fi as much as reasonably possible as a service out of the gate, understanding that this is still a new space. Our goal and vision for steady state operations is that we have as much of a productized operation as possible, so that we can focus as much of our operation on building cubes, analytics consumption, and building integrations/ETLs for bringing apps into the ecosystem, so that everything in between, our partner handles. We want our partner to be very clear with us on which parts we're allowed to touch and which parts we're not allowed to touch.

If there's a path that allows the vendor to stand up the service from the start, we would be amenable. We understand that in this situation there would be more standardization and expectations on the YES Prep technical team. Please provide clarity on those expectations. For that path, we may need to also have some implementation support. We want to avoid YES Prep customizations from getting into the platform to allow for longer term sustainability for everyone involved.

Question: Requirement 6 - "Tolerance for complexity" – What does this mean exactly
Answer: Striking from RFP - RFP posted online will be updated.

Question: Describe the current data warehouse. (asked in the context of integrating with existing CDP)

Answer: YES Prep will be responsible for getting data in and out of legacy data warehouse. Our expectation is that we would not integrate to it. We would migrate appropriate data and then deprecate it.

Question: Requirement 19 – Reporting Tool, pg 11?
Answer: If there are other products that extend the capability, we think that would be a value add. It doesn't necessarily have to be tightly integrated into the solution.

Question: Should it use your Azure environment?
Answer: We're open to something else, but it's going to be primarily cost-driven. So we're anticipating that it's going to be in our cloud tenants. There will be no on-prem components.

Question: Do you have a single sign-on system?
Answer: Yes (and verbally reviewed included diagram).

Question: What is the deadline for RFP submission?
Answer: Deadline is as published on the RFP schedule, per email (August 9th, 2016 11:59 pm Central). Typos in the RFP will be corrected and reposted.