

Case Study

Nebraska Department of Education

Powerful Business Intelligence Solution Provides Statewide School Assessment Solution for more than 1,200 Schools

The Company

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is the government association that oversees the school districts and schools within Nebraska, covering 1,255 schools mostly located in rural areas.

The Business Challenge

Following federal mandates about educational accountability, Nebraska found itself one of only two states with no statewide school assessment system. The Nebraska State Legislature passed legislation for NDE to begin producing a State of the Schools Report.

NDE initially created the report manually via paper questionnaires that resulted in a single, printed "report card" that was distributed to newspapers. Upon request from the media for more information, NDE gave them raw data files, often leading to misinterpreted data or material presented out of context.

NDE realized it needed a less labor and cost intensive means of collecting data, and a more sophisticated way of presenting the information to constituents without risk of oversimplification, misinterpretation, or political fallout.

The Solution

Aspect created a publicly accessible website that allows users to drill down from the state to the individual school level, with data being displayed in dynamically generated, clear-to-understand charts and graphs.

Having built the site to easily collect and display data with a secure login, Aspect then optimized the solution for the different stages of data collection and the varying groups that are viewing it. For example, during the collection phase for the State of the School reporting only designated officials have access to the data in progress. Then, several days before the public release of the report, individual districts are permitted to see the results giving them time to add comments. Full release to the public is synchronized with the release to the media of the State of the Schools Report Card.

The site not only meets federal mandates but also provides a transparent view for both the media and the public to scrutinize NDE's current standing and progress in identifying problem areas and improving them.

Having been exceptionally pleased with Aspect's previous work, the Department of Education asked Aspect to enhance the State of the Schools Report Card to provide side by side comparisons between school districts and school buildings.



Highlights

- Online statewide school assessment solution encompassing over 1,200 schools
- Web based reporting system provides users with drill down capabilities to examine assessment information from the state to individual schools
- Solution saves significant time, labor and costs by streamlining data collection, auditing and reporting processes
- Meets federal mandates



Aspect is currently assisting NDE in creating a reporting solution for a new student-level-based data warehouse, called the Nebraska Student & Staff Record System. NDE can now set goals to implement a new reporting environment for internal reporting and some public reporting via the State of the Schools Report Card website by 2009.

Results

- Online educational assessment reporting system provides a streamlined procedure for collecting, aggregating, analyzing, presenting, and comparing school performance data
- Saves considerable time, labor, and cost in preparing assessments
- Parents can peruse and judge the data themselves; the schools have the means to present the data in context that is not misconstrued; the media has access for their reporting; and the legislature gets required accountability
- NDE is assured that teachers and schools are in control of the assessment process

Key Solution Components

- Microsoft® Windows® Server 2003
- Microsoft® SQL Server® 2000 Enterprise Edition, with Data Transformation Services
- Microsoft® Internet Information Server 6.0
- ASP .NET 2.0 and 3.5
- Microsoft® .NET 2.0 & 3.5 Framework
- ASP .NET AJAX Extensions 1.0
- Microsoft® Visual Studio® 2005 & 2008 Team System
- Microsoft® Visual Basic® .NET 2.0 & 3.5
- ChartFX
- Adobe® Photoshop®

Corporate Headquarters

300 Apollo Drive
Chelmsford, MA 01824

978 250 7900 office
978 244 7410 fax

Europe & Africa Headquarters

2 The Square, Stockley Park
Uxbridge
Middlesex UB11 1AD

+(44) 20 8589 1000 office
+(44) 20 8589 1001 fax

Asia Pacific & Middle East Headquarters

138 Robinson Road
#13-00 The Corporate Office
Singapore 068906

+(65) 6590 0388 office
+(65) 6324 1003 fax

[aspect.com](http://www.aspect.com)

About Aspect

Aspect is a global software and IT services firm specializing in applying Microsoft unified communications and collaboration to help customers achieve optimal results through enhanced business processes across the enterprise and in the contact center. Aspect provides IT consulting, integration services and business applications. For more information, visit www.aspect.com.

