

From: Mark Dufendach [mailto:mdufenda@polytech.k12.de.us]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 10:41 AM
To: Cunningham Emily W. (Lt Governor)
Cc: 'Debbie Zych'
Subject: RE: Financial Data

Hi Emily,

I am very familiar with the NCES data collection process, and was previously responsible for this when I was at DOE. What I'm trying to stress is that the data for the 2010-2011 school year has yet to be validated by the districts. Each year, DOE takes a 'first cut' at a crosswalk which takes the individual expenditure transactions and maps each transaction to a corresponding NCES expenditure category, but this 'crosswalk' is not a perfect science. After this 'first cut' at the mapping process, the districts review the data, make modifications and then verify the final report prior to the data being released to NCES. Why DOE is electing to post the 'draft' data as part of the profiles is a question you would need to ask them, but the data has not been validated. Typically that process would be complete by now, but DOE has been delayed in their taking their 'first cut' at the data (due mostly to the new state system). Please call me at 697-2170 if you want to discuss in greater detail, but I think it's important to be aware that the posted data has not been validated by the districts and that the districts have yet to be given the opportunity to review the data.

Thanks,
Mark

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From: Cunningham Emily W. [mailto:emily.cunningham@state.de.us]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 9:42 AM
To: Dufendach Mark
Cc: Debbie Zych
Subject: RE: Financial Data

Mark,

We have received some questions and where we will get the data for our upcoming spending report. Every year, we pull our information from the information provided by school districts and provided to the public on the DE Department of Education's website. The data reflected in this report is reported by

the school districts themselves, and the categories into which the expenditures fall are categories created and defined by the United States Department of Education (www.nces.ed.gov). The information is neither generated by nor categorized by the Lieutenant Governor's office. The data for the 2010-2011 school year is currently posted with the profile for each district on the Department of Education's web site.

For those that have questions about how the report looks, please visit the report issued last year. http://ltgov.delaware.gov/schoolreports/public_school_spending_report_2011_may_25.shtml

Thanks,
Emily

From: Mark Dufendach [<mailto:mdufenda@polytech.k12.de.us>]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 8:28 AM
To: Cunningham Emily W. (Lt Governor)
Cc: Debbie Zych
Subject: Financial Data

Hi Emily,

As you have probably heard from the other districts, the 2010-2011 finance data has yet to be released by DOE for the districts to review. With this being the first year of reporting from the new state financial system, it is taking longer for DOE to do the 'crosswalk' of matching the expenditure transactions with the reporting categories that are required to be reported to NCES. I understand that the districts are to receive the 'first cut' of the data from DOE very soon, and then the districts need a few weeks to review and validate (or modify) the data as appropriate. Of course, even when that process is complete, there will likely be comparability issues with this being the first year of data from a new system, which has an entirely different expenditure coding system than what was used in the old state system (DFMS). Any data that you may have at this point, has not been seen or reviewed by the districts, so it would be important to at least wait until DOE has provided the districts with the data and given them a reasonable amount of time to review for potential deficiencies in the new 'crosswalk' before making the information available to the public. Please feel free to give me a call (697-2170) if you would like to discuss this in greater detail.

Thanks,
Mark

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