Introduction and Context

In July of 2013 the U.S. Department of Education Performance Information Management Service (PIMS) published 18 ED*Facts* Connections (see the addendum for a list of the published ED*Facts* Connections).[1] Using a recent enhancement to Connect that allows the replication of published Connections, users can create a shell with all of the information from these recently published ED*Facts* Connections, allowing the state to fill in its own information. Additional data elements could be added, other elements deleted, and the nuances used in the state to prepare the file documented in the Analysis Recommendations. By leveraging this new Connect enhancement, states can use the published ED*Facts* Connections as frameworks for building their own state-specific Connections. See the [tutorial](#) on "Replication" for step-by-step instructions on how to use the ED*Facts* Connection published by PIMS to create your own state-specific Connections.

The Value of Replicating ED*Facts* Connections

As states use the replication feature and publish their own ED*Facts* Connections, a repository of Connections will gradually be built, allowing states to look to their peers for ways to complete ED*Facts* files and data groups, identify efficiencies, and improve data quality. States could examine the Connections in the repository and use the information gleaned during data governance or management meetings to focus on efficiencies and data quality. Districts could also use—and contribute to—this growing repository to understand, document, and discuss which elements from their student information systems contribute to aggregate statistics reported to the U.S. Department of Education.

PIMS and program staff at the Department of Education would be able to examine Connections in the repository to gain insight on how data files are built and submitted through the ED*Facts* program. With an increased understanding of how files and data groups are built, federal staff will be more informed and in a better position to propose changes and new collections that are less burdensome on state and local officials.

The repository could also be used by vendors to examine how states prepare ED*Facts* files and data groups and devise enhancements to systems to create efficiencies and improve data quality.

The repository of Connections could be used at national, regional, and state conferences to initiate or focus discussions around ED*Facts* file and data groups and how different elements are aggregated. Further, states, PIMS, and program staff would be able to engage in multiparty discussions and dissect how data for ED*Facts* files and data groups are aggregated, leading to an improved understanding of the data submitted across multiple states.

By using a repository of ED*Facts* Connections to examine how states build ED*Facts* files and data groups, as well as engaging in critical dialogue around lessons learned, PIMS and Department of Education Program Staff will be better able to understand the data submitted in the ED*Facts* program. With this understanding, federal staff will be in a better position to help identify efficiencies and data quality improvement opportunities in collaboration with state and local staff.

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[1] PIMS published these connections as a good faith effort and with the intent that states would use features like Replication as outlined herein to increase the mutual understanding of data needs and capabilities.

Share Your Ideas

Can you or your team identify additional uses for state-replicated ED*Facts* Connections? If so, please share with the ED*Facts* community at EDFacts@Communities360.org.

Additional Resources

See two additional briefs, "Using myConnect with ED*Facts* Connections" and "Contributing to the ED*Facts* Dialogue," that explore the value of the published ED*Facts* Connections when used with additional tools and features on the CEDS website.

Addendum

ED*Facts* Connections Published in July 2013

- Basic Directory Data for File Specification N029
- Data Group 306, File Specification C040 Graduates Completers Table
- Data Group 326, File Specification C032 Dropouts table
- Data Group 39, File Specification C052 Membership Table (LEA)
- Data Group 39, File Specification C052 Membership Table (School)
- Data Group 39, File Specification C052 Membership Table (State)
- Data Group 528, File Specification C059 Staff FTE Table
- Data Group 565, File Specification C033 Free and reduced price lunch table
- Data Group 583, File Specification C175 Academic achievement in mathematics table
- Data Group 584, File Specification C178 Academic achievement in reading language arts table
- Data Group 585, File Specification C179 Academic achievement in science table
- Data Group 588, File Specification C185 Assessment participation in mathematics table
- Data Group 589, File Specification C188 Assessment participation in reading language arts table
- Data Group 590, File Specification C189 Assessment participation in science table
- Data Group 644, File Specification C059 Teachers (FTE)
- Data Group 695, File Specification C150 Regulatory four-year adjusted-cohort graduation rate table
- Data Group 696, File Specification C151 Cohorts for regulatory four-year adjusted-cohort graduation rate table
- Other Directory Data for File Specification N029