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 the Community Feedback feature that is available for every published Connection, users can initiate or participate in community dialogue on the published ED*Facts* Connections. See the tutorial on "Community Feedback" for step-by-step instructions on how to provide your feedback on the published ED*Facts* Connections and engage in the community dialogue.

The Value of Community Feedback for Improved Data Management

Data management is the "function of planning for, controlling and delivering data and information assets."[2] Dialogue and communication are keys to successful plans, controls, and deliverables in any multiparty enterprise. State, district, and school staff can use the Community Feedback feature in the published ED*Facts* Connections as an avenue to engage in an organized and documented dialogue and communication with PIMS and program staff. Ultimately, the goal of the Community Feedback feature is to increase the volume and quality of dialogue and communication in order to collaboratively improve the data management function of ED*Facts* data. Outlined below are specific examples for which the Community Feedback feature in Connect could be used to comment:

- Schedule challenges that lead to data quality concerns with specific ED*Facts* files or data groups.
- State or district staff could comment on a number of data quality dimensions related to ED*Facts* files and data groups, including
  - data accuracy, or the degree to which the data submitted correctly represent the real-life object or event on which staff intend to report;
  - consistency of data values across files or data groups.
- Situations where data must be transformed to meet requirements outlined in ED*Facts* file specifications.
- Definitions for specific ED*Facts* files or data groups that lack clarity or completeness.
- District or school staff could comment in particular around the viability of CEDS elements utilized in the ED*Facts* Connections.

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

[2] Mosley, Mark, Michael Brackett, Susan Early and Deborah Henderson. DAMA Guide to the Data Management Body of Knowledge. Technics Publications, 2010. ISBN 978-1-9355040-2-3. Page 4.

As outlined in the brief "Learning from Peers about ED*Facts* Reporting," states can use the "Replication" function to build their own ED*Facts* Connections from the Connections published by PIMS, and a repository of Connections could evolve. With a multitude of state ED*Facts* Connections, the Community Feedback feature could be used to highlight similarities and differences in the way in which ED*Facts* files and data groups are built.

Once states are comfortable using the Community Feedback feature in Connect, PIMS could develop Connections for proposed new files and data groups, or for significant changes to existing files and data groups, and solicit comments through the Community Feedback feature.

Share Your Ideas

Can you or your team identify additional examples of how the Community Feedback feature in ED*Facts* Connections could be used? 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 "Learning from Peers about ED*Facts* Reporting," 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