

# Follett Software's Aspen Student Information System Alignment with Federal Funding Resources

## ASPEN STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

A complete solution that works for you.

Aspen delivers streamlined communication among the front office, the classroom and the home. As a result, operations are significantly improved, no matter the size of your school or district. A browser-based system, Aspen provides both high-level and detailed views of school and student data, enabling easy access to reports, data collection and analysis.

**System Administration**—Aspen helps you set up a safe, secure and highly functional digital environment for your student and school information.

- Create your ideal protection strategy using multiple layers of data transmission security and more than 20 predefined, customizable roles.
- Store and quickly access essential district-wide and school-specific information with the Aspen Data Dictionary.

**Master Schedule Builder**—The power and flexibility of Aspen's scheduling engine enables you to build your master schedule with simple patterns and easy-to-understand rules.

- Manage course requests for incoming students and determine the precise number of teachers and classrooms you need for a specific subject.
- Build virtually any type of schedule, whether it's a two-day, four-period block schedule or a more traditional five-day, seven-period rotation.

**Teacher Gradebook**—Transform your grading process from an administrative obligation to a seamless extension of your teaching style. With Aspen, you can access student records in real-time and never have to synchronize data.

- Use Aspen's flexible, intuitive interface that supports the precise way you prefer to input and maintain student grades.
- Post end-of-term grades and complete other grading tasks with fewer steps than you thought possible.

**Parent and Student Portals**—Enable your administrators, parents and students to make informed decisions about student behavior, support and performance.

- Eliminate time-consuming, ineffective mass mailings by giving families read-only access to their own demographic data.
- Make a wide range of student data—including attendance, assignments, conduct incidents, grades, progress reports and report cards—available for parental review.
- Give each student real-time access to his or her own academic and activity information.

Aspen features ensure that every bit of your school and student data is accessible and connected, for greater administrative efficiencies and better decision making.

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## **ASPEN ALIGNMENT WITH FEDERAL FUNDING RESOURCES**

ESEA = ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT

### **RACE TO THE TOP (RTTT)**

**FY11 FUNDING \$700 MILLION FY12 REQUEST \$900 MILLION**

Race to the Top was designed to advance reform in K-12 education through targeted initiatives in state and local school districts around four key assurance areas:

- Standards and Assessments
- Data Systems to Inform Instruction
- Great Teachers and Leaders
- Turning Around Lowest Performing Schools

Race to the Top also establishes additional goals for education. These goals include improving student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, and ensuring post-secondary success. Race to the Top is a competitive grant that has currently been awarded to Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Tennessee. A second competition is expected by early fall 2011.

Aspen is a data system that informs instruction at the classroom and district levels.

### **Title I Part A ESEA—College- and Career-Readiness (formerly Education of the Disadvantaged)**

**FY11 \$14.4 BILLION FY12 REQUEST \$14.8 BILLION**

Title I, Part A is designed to ensure that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and assessments. Title I focuses on high-poverty, low achieving schools and districts. Funds can be used for instructional materials, salaries, professional development and assessment activities.

Allocations are based on the number of low-income children in the state. The Title I amount is funneled down to local districts, which must allocate their funds to schools based on their numbers of low-income students

The funds typically target reading and math support. Districts are held accountable for improved student achievement through a process of testing and reporting, with a current goal of 100% proficiency by 2014.

Parent involvement is highlighted in the Title I regulations. The Aspen SIS provides state-of-the-art technology and services that manage every piece of data related to the student and family. This data is presented in reports that are easily accessible to authorized district personnel for review of student progress and program evaluation. Information is available to parents and students through password-protected portals.

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## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS ESEA TITLE I SECTION 1003(g)** **FY11 \$534 MILLION FY12 REQUEST \$600 MILLION**

School Improvement Grants (SIG) provide support for services to local educational agencies with schools in need of improvement, corrective action or restructuring. SIG may be used for professional development, scientifically research-based instructional strategies and methods of instruction, instructional strategies and methods that have proven effective and other strategies that data indicate are likely to result in improved teaching and learning in schools.

Grantees must select one of 4 models of improvement: Turnaround (replace principal and ½ staff), Restart (under management of a Charter or Educational Management Organization), Closure, and Transformation (replace the principal and change curriculum, management, and professional development models).

Eligible schools have consistently failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress under the Title I requirements and must make changes to management systems to improve Student Achievement. Data-driven decision making is a key to identifying and implementing appropriate instruction in these schools. Aspen serves this requirement of the Turnaround and Transformation models of intervention.

## **IMPACT AID ESEA TITLE VIII** **FY11 \$1.28 BILLION FY12 REQUEST \$1.28 BILLION**

Impact Aid provides assistance to local school districts with concentrations of children residing on Indian lands, military bases, low-rent housing properties, or other Federal properties and, to a lesser extent, concentrations of children who have parents in the uniformed services or employed on eligible Federal properties who do not live on Federal property.

School districts use Impact Aid for a wide variety of expenses, including the salaries of teachers and teacher aides; purchasing textbooks, computers, and other equipment; after-school programs and remedial tutoring; advanced placement classes; and special enrichment programs.

Impact Aid construction funds include both formula and competitive grants to support the construction or renovation of school facilities in eligible school districts.

Considered part of the general fund, Impact Aid can support an Aspen purchase for a district.

## **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)** **FY11 \$11.4 BILLION FY12 REQUEST \$1.7 BILLION**

IDEA ensures that all children with disabilities have a free appropriate public education available to them that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for employment and independent living. Funds can be used for special education program staff, program administration, instructional programs and materials, assistive technology and professional development.

Aspen enables users to access special education and all student demographic data in real time, and conduct global searches to determine which students are receiving special accommodations and services. Aspen enables educators to define electronic workflows for priority special education processes, including referrals, re-evaluations and amendments, ensuring that teachers have access to the information that will enable them to better meet the needs of students.

To learn more, call 800.323.3397 or visit [www.FollettSoftware.com/Aspen](http://www.FollettSoftware.com/Aspen).

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