



*NASCIO 2023 State IT Recognition Awards
Data Management, Analytics & Visualization*



School Finance Transparency Portal

Description: How Arizona Spends Education Funds

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Situation

In the first regular session of 2021, the Legislature of the State of Arizona passed House Bill 2898, which states:

"Beginning in the fiscal year 2021-2022, the Department of Administration shall develop a transparent and easily accessible School Financial Transparency Portal that includes... school level data for charter schools, individual schools operated by a school district, and school districts." (<https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/55leg/1R/bills/HB2898H.pdf> - p. 91).

Problems

While the legislation provided funding and guidance for what the School Finance Transparency Portal (SFTP) should accomplish, there were no requirements provided or direction of what the functionality of the portal should include.

Solution

The Arizona Department of Administration - Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology (ADOA-ASET) team members assembled a large group of stakeholders across state government (Department of Education and the State Board of Charter Schools) and the private sector, to include executive branch agencies and separately elected officials and legislative branch agencies. The assembled team planned a detailed action and milestone delivery timeline to aid in the successful execution of the [SFTP](#).

CONCEPT

The steps to plan, develop, and implement the portal consisted of:

- Hiring external contractors for requirements gathering and creation of a solution abstract.
- Development and issuance of an RFP for development and maintenance of the SFTP to include a prototype.
- SFTP development included stakeholder feedback from External stakeholders and focus groups, including parents, community members, school members, private association members and members of the Legislature.

The project was completed over 4 cycles of development including six weeks of UAT testing and manual validation of three fiscal years of data.

SIGNIFICANCE

The SFTP provides dynamic, 360-degree views of education dollars flowing through, or spent by Arizona's K-12 education system, making more detailed information available to more people, more quickly, and in more useful ways. The portal delivers an easily accessible technology environment, enabling the public to filter and view comparative data visualizations that indicate how education dollars are distributed and used statewide.

IMPACT

The SFTP is an easily accessible technology friendly environment, enabling the public to view comparative data visualizations of how education dollars are distributed and used statewide (schools , districts, and charter schools).

The SFTP allows the public to view the same data through interactive charts and tables using four personas (Parent, Community Members, School Board Member and Legislator) as well as allowing comparison of financial information across districts, schools, and charter schools.

Available data in the portal includes:

- Total revenues weighted by student enrollment
- Total allocated federal, state, and local revenues
- Allocation of teacher compensation, classroom supplies, student support, classroom site funds, and other expenditures
- Funding comparisons for schools within the same education agency/district
- Relevant data comparisons between revenues, expenditures, demographics, and academics

REFERENCES

