



The Treasure State
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative David Bedey
House District 86

November 22, 2023

PowerSchool
ATTN: Elizabeth Walbrun
150 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, CA 95630

Dear Ms. Walbrun,

It has come to my attention that the Office of Public Instruction has several concerns about the implementation of the OPI Database Modernization project, which—if substantiated—might impede or even foreclose delivery of a project that meets legislative intent expressed in HB 367 and HB 949.

If this is indeed the case, it is imperative that these issues be addressed as soon as possible. To that end, this subject will be on the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Education Interim Budget Committee, which is scheduled for December 13, 2023, at the Montana State Capitol.

I am summoning you to attend this meeting as a subject matter expert. Your insights will be very helpful to the committee. You may attend via Zoom if that is more convenient for you. (My lead analyst, Julia Pattin can provide you with the link.)

Please be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. Is there a way for PowerSchool to pull from Infinite Campus (state edition) all education data necessary to realize the full analytic potential of the PowerSchool system? If not, what capabilities will be lost?
2. What is the cost of the customized interface that OPI has suggested PowerSchool provide? (The nature of this interface is not clear to me.) If OPI's approach is adopted, how much of PowerSchool's analytic power will be lost?
3. What is the estimated cost of implementing (and subsequently maintaining) a COTS interface that allows non-PowerSchool districts to directly input education data into PowerSchool?
4. Can you provide an example of a state in which PowerSchool receives student education data directly from school districts without requiring the formal consent of the districts while at the same time complying with FERPA?

You should anticipate that other questions will be posed by the committee. Your participation in this meeting will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David F. Bedey".

Chairman, Education Interim Budget Committee