

## The Challenge

Although many data warehouses are initially constructed to meet state and federal reporting requirements, the educational agencies with a data warehouse can more quickly and effectively select, gather, analyze, manage, and improve their data to establish credibility, improve performance, and reduce costs. As stated in the Malcolm Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence, critical components of how organizational information and knowledge are managed require that data have the following qualities:<sup>1</sup>

- Accuracy
- Integrity and reliability
- Timeliness
- Security and confidentiality
- Currency with educational service needs

Based on eScholar's implementations in over 3,500 school districts across the country, common problems in collecting and using data include lack of:

- Clearly articulated goals, strategies and data used to measure success
- Common definitions for important data elements
- Time, training, and "adhered to" policies to collect and verify data
- Required staff and other resources necessary to support the data warehouse
- Support from key stakeholders, including policy-makers, administrators, teachers and parent

## The Solution

States and districts need a plan to strategically use their data and a data warehouse that provides:

- A standardized, automated process incorporating best practices
- Continuous alignment with state and federal standards
- Fast implementation and performance
- Accurate data
- Low maintenance costs

eScholar has developed the RADAAR approach shown in the table on the follow pages that encapsulates best practices in data quality.

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<sup>1</sup> The Malcolm Baldrige 2006 Education Criteria for Performance Excellence Category #4 Measurement

## RADAAR Best Practice Data Quality Model

RADAAR Category	Sub-Category	Best Practice	Increase Data Accuracy	Reduce Costs	Streamline State and Federal Reporting	Increase Data Use
Rules	<p>Clear Business Rules</p> <p>Single Version of Truth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eScholar provides Data Element Best Practices that describe how data in each field is used, and aligns them with NCES Data Handbook Definitions, SIF Objects and required Federal EDEN data elements.</li> <li>By forming the data foundation for the entire scope of data, the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse provides the one, integrated single version of the truth.</li> </ul>	X		X	
Alignment	<p>Recoding</p> <p>External Data Sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The eScholar Complete Data Warehouse provides the ability for local data standards that are historically familiar to be used while recoding these to global standards that will support global comparisons.</li> <li>The eScholar Complete Data Warehouse can integrate and compare data from external sources, such as postal address changes, district boundaries, and congressional districts and geo code data to augment and improve the accuracy of data being collected from district sources.</li> </ul>	X	X	X	
Detail	Lowest Level of Granularity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The eScholar Complete Data Warehouse collects the lowest level of individual student, assessment, attendance and other data so it can be analyzed and corrected. Using other systems, errors can be detected in aggregate numbers, but cannot be corrected except at the lowest level of detail. The eScholar Complete Data Warehouse provides the full capability.</li> </ul>	X			X

RADAAR Category	Sub-Category	Best Practice	Increase Data Accuracy	Reduce Costs	Streamline State and Federal Reporting	Increase Data Use
Accountability	<p>Clear Auditability</p> <p>Defined Feedback Loop</p> <p>Clear Sign-Offs</p> <p>Executive Leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eScholar provides the capability to record, audit and analyze everything that happens to each record of data from the time it is collected until it appears in a report or data submission. This provides the ability to clearly track all changes and corrections in data.</li> <li>• The eScholar Complete Data Warehouse provides the ability to collect and cleanse data from users that input the data (data stewards) and then return data to those end users in value-added reports. By providing this value-added feedback, eScholar dramatically increases the incentive for the data stewards to collect data correctly the first time.</li> <li>• The eScholar Complete Data Warehouse web interface provides the ability for the data stewards to evaluate the quality of the data and then accept the data as accurate, thus improving the credibility of the data.</li> <li>• eScholar and its extensive user community have developed leadership best practices that help states and districts to put in place the necessary responsibilities and leadership roles that will increase and continuously improve data quality.</li> </ul>	X	X		X



## Why eScholar?

- The leader in education data management, providing successful statewide solutions for 11 SEAs, supporting over 3,500 school districts and over 12 million students across the country.
- Focused exclusively on the education data management industry since 1997.
- Comprehensive services, training and support programs to ensure customer success.
- An established, active user community allowing access to best practices, experience, and support from peers nationwide

Today, our products have become the recognized standards in the student and staff identification and educational data warehousing markets. The eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution has become an indispensable solution to local and state education agencies for integrating and managing the vast quantity of information they collect on students, programs, teachers and much more. For more information, contact Sales at [sales@escholar.com](mailto:sales@escholar.com) or (877) 328-2969

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