

School, student, teacher, course and assessment data – and related systems – are central to several of the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Department of Education’s Race to the Top funding program. Certica Solutions, a leading provider of data management solutions to P-12 districts nationwide, supports these Race to the Top data-intensive initiatives.

Certify Data Certification Software

Certica’s software, called Certify™, delivers a daily, automated process of data validation, monitoring and error reporting – a process that Certica calls “data certification.” Certify provides school and district staff with daily email notifications and Data Certification Scorecards, detailing data records which are in error or are out of compliance. Certify streamlines and simplifies the process of tracking and monitoring data – by completely automating all the processes needed to communicate data issues to schools and district data owners.

Certify is the centerpiece of many districts’ data quality initiatives. Used by more than 120 districts nationwide, the software is helping districts to:

- reduce the time and cost associated with data validation, error correction and state reporting;
- strengthen the success and adoption of administrative and longitudinal data systems;
- improve the efficacy of data-driven decision-making,
- support data governance initiatives; and
- maximize funding and ensure accountability through accurate and timely data reporting.

District Spotlight: Prince George’s County Public Schools

A Maryland district of 128,000 students, Prince George’s County Public Schools has invested Race to the Top funds in Certica’s Certify software. The district made the expenditure under the “Building Data Systems” reform area. Certify will ensure the quality of data in the district’s student system and longitudinal data system, increasing efficiency and improving decision-making, as the foundational technology for the district’s data governance initiative.

Race to the Top Reforms

The Race to the Top funding program outlines a set of goals that states and districts are expected to achieve. Two of these goals – or reform areas – depend on states’ and districts’ ability to achieve and sustain highly accurate, complete and timely data. The reform areas which apply directly to the adoption of Certify software are:

- Building Data Systems that Measure Student Growth and Success, and Inform Teachers and Principals About How They Can Improve Instruction; and
- Turning Around Our Lowest Achieving Schools.

Certify supports the first of these reforms, **Building Data Systems**, by providing a pro-active, self-service mechanism for continuous, daily data validation, monitoring and error reporting. Certify identifies data anomalies and communicates them automatically – expediting the process of research and correction. Certify can be used with districts’ existing student information and administrative systems, as well as districts’ longitudinal data systems, such as data warehouses. Certify will also ensure that new data systems are implemented and maintained using clean, reliable data.

The second of the applicable reforms, **Turning Around Our Lowest Achieving Schools**, is an endeavor that relies heavily on the ability of districts to collect, analyze, monitor and track school, student, teacher, course and assessment data. Certify is used by districts nationwide to provide an expedient, easy-to-use method of validating and monitoring data each day. The software may be used to certify data in a range of areas such as student demographics, graduation and dropout indicators, enrollment, attendance, special programs, discipline, teacher certification, courses and grades.

For more information on how your district can meet the data-intensive initiatives of the Race to the Top program, please contact Certica Solutions:

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