



July 31, 2003
Department of Education
Federal Student Aid

Subject: Contract # ED-99-DO-0002
Task Order 123 - Data Strategy Enterprise-Wide
Deliverable 123.1.3: Data Quality Mad Dog Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Data Quality Mad Dog Report highlights the high priority data quality issues facing Federal Student Aid (FSA) data owners. Addressing and ultimately resolving these issues is the first step towards enabling the delivery of more accurate and reliable data on a timely basis. Externally, FSA will better meet its customers and partners expectations for immediate and precise answers to questions and updates to information. Internally, FSA will reap increased quality and reliability in its reporting and analytics and decrease risk associated with funds management. These outcomes also address the issues of waste, fraud, and abuse within FSA's programs that the Inspector General (John P Higgins) testified about in a statement made before the House Budget Committee on July 9th, 2003.

The high priority issues within this report represent three common needs:

- Common Identification Methods for Students, Trading Partners and Aid
- Data Exchange Improvements and Isolated Data Cleansing
- Education and Communication regarding Data Usage for Analytics

These align with three of the Outcomes and Enablers used by the Business Integration Group (BIG) to frame the target vision for FSA.

- Easier Access for our Customers
- Provide the Right tools and Data to Users in Order to Achieve the Desired Outcomes
- Support Effective and Informed Decision Making

While the Mad Dog initiative was designed to generate a list of existing quality issues and sort these issues into a high priority "hit list," it also highlighted the need for an ongoing quality improvement process to periodically examine issues related to FSA data quality. Participants in the Mad Dog agreed that this process is essential to a target state vision of FSA, and also agreed it should be a major component of the Quality Assurance Plan being crafted as part of the greater Data Strategy project.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

Keith Wilson	Review and provide comments by August 14, 2003
Paul Hill	FYI
Steve Allison	FYI
Janet Scott	FYI