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Edwin

A. General:

A1. What is Edwin?
Edwin is the new comprehensive Massachusetts teaching and learning platform, designed to provide state educators integrated information and tools that are aligned to state curriculum frameworks and assessments. The system supports educators and fosters continual improvement of teaching and learning at every level – classroom, school, district, and state- by providing on-demand access to a wide range of tools, resources, and reports so educators can continue to provide high levels of student achievement and help reduce persistent achievement gaps among the state’s most- and least-advantaged student groups.

Edwin will deliver its rich tools, reports and resources through two separate applications, Edwin Teaching and Learning (T&L) and Edwin Analytics, both accessible through a single sign-on process on the security portal. Edwin Teaching and Learning will offer curriculum planning tools, model curriculum units, online instructional resources, and a variety of assessment tools and reports, all aligned to the current Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, which include the Common Core Standards. Edwin Analytics is a vehicle for reporting student, educator and program data that spans multiple years and connects across education agencies: Early Education and Care (EEC), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) and Department of Higher Education (DHE). For more information on each component, see the respective sections of this FAQ.

A2. What does ‘Edwin’ stand for?
Edwin is the name of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (ESE’s) new teaching and learning platform. The name Edwin conveys ESE’s goals of providing accessible tools to help educators and students “win”. Edwin is not an acronym.

A3. When will Edwin be available?
Edwin reports and features will roll out at different times throughout 2012 and 2013. Estimated timelines for specific reports and functions will vary between Edwin Analytics and Edwin Teaching and Learning. Please review the “When will the Edwin Analytics System be available to Massachusetts school districts?” section of this FAQ for more information. This information will also be available on the Edwin website: http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/

A4. How can I get regular updates on Edwin?
The Edwin team will periodically update the Edwin website to provide helpful information and progress updates with Edwin Analytics and Edwin Teaching and Learning. We encourage users to periodically visit the Edwin website (http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/) to stay informed. We also invite you to follow Edwin on Twitter – @Edwin_DESE – to get the latest news and information related to Edwin. Please follow Edwin on Twitter: @Edwin_DESE.
Edwin Analytics

A. General:

A1. What is Edwin Analytics?
Edwin Analytics is a component of the Edwin system that provides authorized users access to new views of student data as well as information for and about educators that support planning and decision-making in classrooms, schools, and districts.

Edwin Analytics integrates data sources to give educators a richer, more comprehensive view of student trends, performance, and outcomes. The resulting reports, dashboards and analytical tools can provide educators statewide – from superintendents to teachers – with information and knowledge to make important decisions that continually improve teaching and learning across the state.

Using Edwin Analytics, classroom teachers, principals, professional support personnel, and district leaders will be able to access a wide range of data, including attendance, course enrollment, and student’s growing acquisition of new knowledge, skills and abilities, to college matriculation. Student, teacher, and course data coming in through the SIF exchange (Schools Interoperability Framework), as well as historical data including state assessment data, will give educators new actionable information and tools to serve their current students and grow as professionals.

A2. Will Edwin Analytics replace the Education Data Warehouse?
The Education Data Warehouse (EDW) will become part of Edwin, specifically Edwin Analytics. This will happen over time. Until this integration is complete, the EDW will continue to be maintained and users will continue to have access to it.

A3. Will I still need to claim students in Edwin Analytics?
Yes, claiming is still required and necessary to have Edwin Analytics reports and the Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS) reflect current students in your district. District must follow the same claiming process used in the EDW.

B. Access and Support:

B1. How do I access the reports in Edwin Analytics?
Edwin Analytics is available through the ESE’s security portal. The security portal can be found in the drop-down menu on the upper right side of the ESE website: http://www.doe.mass.edu/. If you already have a user ID, the next step is to have your district’s directory administrator assign the Edwin Analytics security roles to you. Currently, these roles are the same roles used for the ESE Education Data Warehouse. Please see the Access and Security document on the Education Data Warehouse public website for an explanation of these roles. For additional support, please contact Edwin@doe.mass.edu.
B2. **How are teacher accounts going to be set up so they can access information?**

The ESE will provide additional information on the process for obtaining educator access to Edwin in the coming months.

B3. **Can I log in to Edwin Analytics from home?**

Edwin Analytics applications will be web-based and can be accessed from any location. If you are not able to log in, first verify that you have an active Internet connection at home and that your Internet Service Provider (ISP) is not experiencing technical difficulties. Also, be sure to log in using the browsers supported by the system. The officially supported browsers for Edwin Analytics are Internet Explorer 8 and Mozilla Firefox 3.6. As always, remember that student information is confidential data and users should consider the security of the system and the location that is being used to access the site.

B4. **Is Edwin Analytics Smart phone compatible?**

Edwin Analytics applications will be available via the web. Edwin Analytics can be accessed through most Internet browsers on desktops, laptops, tablets and smartphones. However, Edwin Analytics is not optimized for mobile devices. Edwin Analytics is best viewed on desktop and laptop computers with Internet Explorer 8 or Mozilla Firefox 3.6 browsers.

B5. **Who will have access to my district's data in Edwin Analytics?**

All users can access state data in aggregated form, as they currently do with the ESE’s public school/district profile reports; but only those users assigned the authorized roles in Directory Administration will have access to more confidential data pertaining to the students in their school or district. At the state level, only ESE staff who have a need for the data to fulfill their professional responsibilities, will be given access to confidential student classroom and assessment information, in line with current ESE policies.

For additional information on access to confidential student information, see the Access to SIMS Data category under Reporting Guidelines Frequently Asked Questions and the Data Warehouse Data Access Policy.

B6. **Where do I go for help with Edwin Analytics?**

The Edwin team is developing a number of online documents and resources to help users get the most out of Edwin Analytics. These documents will be available on the Edwin website. We recommend that you first review these documents to get answers to your questions. If these documents don’t address your questions, please contact the person or office in your district that is responsible for supporting data use. ESE will be working closely with district representatives to provide them with the skills, knowledge and information needed to assist their educators. If you are a district representative responsible for supporting data use in your district, and if you have questions about how to support your educators, please contact Edwin via email: Edwin@doe.mass.edu.

**Note:** Level 3 districts can access additional support through their District and School Assistance Centers (DSACs), and Level 4 districts can access support via their district liaison.
C. Edwin Analytics Data:

C1. What data is available in Edwin Analytics?
Edwin Analytics contains information that spans the entire education spectrum (preschool to post-secondary) by integrating data from the following three state agencies:

- Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) data:
  - Program type and student participation level
- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) data:
  - Student outcome data (MCAS performance and growth MEPA levels)
  - Student demographics (SIMS)
  - Student courses, schedules, and teachers (SCS)
  - Student discipline and risk indicators (SSDR and EWIS)
  - Student growth and acquisition of new knowledge, skills and abilities
  - Teacher demographic and licensing information (EPIMS and ELAR)
- Department of Higher Education (DHE) data:
  - college enrollment and persistence
  - college graduation outcomes

Additional data will be included as specific data/reporting needs are identified by users. Data is available for as many years as it has been collected by the relevant state agency. For example, some data is available as far back as 2001, while other data sources will be collected for the first time in 2012-13. As reports that utilize these data sources become available, they will be listed on the Edwin website.

C2. What if I see an error in the data?
If you have read all available definitions and footnotes associated with the report and you still believe that the data is wrong, please send an email to Edwin@doe.mass.edu. Your email should contain a clear description of the data you believe is an error, why you believe it is in error, the data that you expected to see, the report name, and the prompts used in running it. A member of the Edwin Analytics team will look into the issue as soon as possible and will get back to you.

C3. Will staff at EEC and DHE have access to my district’s data in Edwin Analytics?
The DHE will have access to historical K-12 student level data for students currently enrolled in public institutions of higher learning in Massachusetts. The EEC will not have access to any individual student level K-12 data but will be able to access data in aggregate reports.

C4. Will district determined measures of student growth live in Edwin Analytics?
The ESE is in the process of gathering requirements and exploring options for reporting of evaluation data. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

C5. What kinds of educator evaluation data will be made available?
The ESE is in the process of gathering requirements and exploring options for reporting around educator evaluation. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
C6. **Where can I get help using Edwin Analytics data and apply that information to my practice?**

ESE is developing a range of resources designed to help educators understand Edwin Analytics reports and leverage them to improve teaching and learning. Training materials are being developed to explain how to access and run reports, as well as how to understand the information presented in each report. These training materials will be available on the Edwin website. In addition, a series of five professional development courses on data use are being developed to help educators apply information from a variety of data sources in a number of settings such as educator evaluation, tiered systems of supports for students, and program evaluation. More information on these courses will be coming soon.

C7. **Will ACT scores be included?**

The inclusion of ACT scores is not currently within the scope of Edwin Analytics. As the system evolves and more data become available, the ESE will explore the availability of additional data sets.

C8. **Can charter schools track post-secondary outcomes?**

All public high schools, including charter schools, have the capability to see the post secondary enrollment and outcomes of their students through Edwin Analytics.

C9. **Can one see where individual students are enrolled?**

The functionality to see the post secondary enrollments of individual students has been built into Edwin but the ESE has not released it to school districts in this introductory iteration. Future iterations will make this functionality available.

D. **Reports:**

D1. **Can I share Edwin Analytics reports with my colleagues?**

Student level reports are considered confidential and are subject to federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) rules. They should not be shared with individuals who are not directly responsible for the education of the student. Aggregate level reports are considered public information and may be shared as long as they contain only non-personally identifiable aggregate data.

For additional information on access to confidential student information, see the Access to SIMS Data category under Reporting Guidelines Frequently Asked Questions and the Data Warehouse Data Access Policy.

D2. **Whom do I contact if I have a question while running a report in Edwin Analytics?**

Please contact your district’s data warehouse contact first. A list of data warehouse contacts by district is available on School/District Profiles using the People Search tool. If your data warehouse contact cannot answer your question, an email should be sent to Edwin@doe.mass.edu that provides as much information as possible about your question and concern including the date, name of the report, time you ran the report, and any specific error messages you received. Please reference “Edwin Analytics reports” in the subject line.
D3. Is there data on what topics or strands in math (algebra or trig) require developmental courses?

No. Reports on developmental coursework are available at the subject level only.

Edwin Analytics Availability and Rollout

A. General:

A1. Will Edwin Analytics be available to all Massachusetts districts?

Yes, Edwin Analytics will be available to all Massachusetts school districts. At minimum, each district must make sure that they have EDW accounts that will be used to give access to Edwin Analytics. Updating of permissions and roles may be required to get access.

A2. When will the Edwin Analytics System be available to Massachusetts school districts?

The Edwin Analytics system will rollout various reports throughout 2012 and 2013. Access will be driven by the type of reports and type of users who can access each report. The estimated timeline is:

- Winter 2012 – 2013:
  - College readiness reports – available to district/school administrators.
  - Early Warning Indicator System – available to district and school administrators. For more information on EWIS please refer to the EWIS section of this FAQ.
- June 2013:
  - Classroom/student performance and trends reports – available to teachers and district/school administrators.
- Summer 2013 – School Year 2013:
  - Additional administrator school and district level – available to district/school administrators.
  - Educator prep. program reports – available to district/school administrators.

B. Pilots:

B1. Will there be a pilot for Edwin Analytics?

To ensure that the statewide rollout of Edwin Analytics goes smoothly, districts who have been involved in defining Edwin district report requirements will first be given access to the system. Following these districts, access will be granted statewide.

C. Pricing:

C1. Is there a cost for Edwin Analytics?

There is no cost to access Edwin Analytics.
Edwin Analytics: The Massachusetts Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS)

A. General:

A1. What is an Early Warning Indicator System (EWIS)?
An early warning indicator system provides a methodological way of looking at students and their likelihood of meeting specific academic goals (expected student outcomes). Across the country, early indicators are becoming an increasingly important tool for educators to better design and target student interventions. EWIS is intended to be a tool for educators to use in conjunction with other data and sources of information to better target student supports and interventions. Traditionally, early warning systems were most often implemented at the high school level to help predict which students are most likely to drop out.

The new Massachusetts EWIS is for grade levels 1-12 and is connected to relevant academic goals throughout the academic trajectory. The Massachusetts EWIS includes research driven, statistically validated, risk models to predict whether students will meet their academic goals.

A2. Why was the Massachusetts EWIS created?
ESE created the grades 1-12 EWIS in response to district interest in the Early Warning Indicator Index (EWII) that ESE previously created for rising grade 9 students. Districts shared that the EWII data were helpful, but also requested early indicator data at earlier grade levels and throughout high school. The new EWIS builds on the strengths and lessons learned from the EWII to provide early indicator data for grades 1-12.

A3. Are Massachusetts schools and districts required to use early indicator data or the new EWIS?
No – the EWIS was created to be an optional tool for Massachusetts educators. ESE strongly encourages schools and districts to review their EWIS data to determine if this new tool could be a helpful resource for informing student interventions. Districts are also encouraged to explore ways to supplement the EWIS data with data maintained at the local level.

One option to consider using is in the National High School Center’s Early Warning System High School Tool: http://www.betterhighschools.org/EWS_tool.asp and the Early Warning System Middle School Tool: http://www.betterhighschools.org/EWS_middle.asp. Both of these tools include “monitoring indicators” that can be tracked throughout this school year, which may complement the MA EWIS risk-level data, which is based on data from the previous school year.

A4. Is early-indicator data part of the new accountability system under the ESEA waiver?
No – the EWIS data are intended to be a tool for educators to help systematically identify students who need further investigation and additional supports. It is not part of the state’s school and district accountability system, the Progress and Performance Index (PPI), however,
some of the academic goals that the EWIS is linked to (e.g., high school graduation and MCAS), are included in the PPI accountability metric.

A5. I heard EWIS will be part of Edwin Analytics. Why do we need to access the data via the ESE Security Portal?
In order to provide the new EWIS data to districts in a timely manner for the 2012-13 school year, ESE is providing student-level data in Excel file format through the College and Career Readiness Dropbox on the ESE Security Portal. Starting this winter (2012-13), EWIS reports will be part of Edwin Analytics.

B. Access and Support:

B1. Who can access the EWIS data?
The EWIS is a no-cost tool for Massachusetts public school districts. The preliminary EWIS data may be accessed directly through the ESE Security Portal by anyone who has access to the College and Career Readiness Dropbox (district-level role of College and Career Readiness User). Depending on your local (district) policies, this data file may be downloaded and shared with other educators in your district.

B2. How do I access the preliminary EWIS data?
The preliminary EWIS data are available in the College and Career Readiness Dropbox on the ESE Security Portal in September 2012. Following are instructions for accessing your district’s student-level Excel file via the ESE Security Portal:

- The Excel files will be provided by districts through the Security Portal dropbox called College and Career Readiness Dropbox. This can be found in Drop Box Central on the ESE Security Portal. Staff with the district-level role of College and Career Readiness User may access this dropbox.
- If you do not have access to this dropbox, you will need to put in a request to your district’s Directory Administrator (DA) for the district-level role of College and Career Readiness User. You can find your DA in this list: http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/diradmin/list.aspx.
- Please be sure to follow any of your local rules and policy around who should be provided this access to the College and Career Readiness Dropbox to access this data.

If your DA's have any questions about how to provide access to this dropbox, they can contact Kerrie Anastas at ESE at: 781-338-3663 or email at: kanastas@doe.mass.edu.

B3. Which students will my district have access to viewing?
District lists include any students who were claimed via the Education Data Warehouse (EDW) student claiming process, by September 14, 2012. Students who were not claimed by this date will be included on the district list for the district of enrollment in the end-of-year SIMS collection. Districts participating in the SIF project do not have to claim students because if a student has been enrolled in the district and has no errors in the student name or date of birth, the student is automatically claimed by the district.
B4. How do I get support for using the EWIS?
ESE is preparing for a number of training opportunities related to the new EWIS. These opportunities will be rolled out throughout the 2012-13 school year. The first opportunity were introductory webinars offered in October 2012. The slides from this presentation are available on the Edwin website. During Fall 2012, recorded mini tutorials on various topics related to EWIS will be added to the website. There will be additional opportunities for professional development related to the use of EWIS through the existing Dropout Prevention & Recovery Work Group and other state initiatives and networks.

C. EWIS Data:

C1. When will EWIS data be part of Edwin Analytics?
Edwin Analytics is expected to be released during the 2012-13 winter, and the release will include three EWIS reports: 1) a student-level watch list, 2) the district (aggregate) view, and 3) graphical reports with longitudinal data. More details about Edwin Analytics will be forthcoming in Fall and Winter of 2012.

C2. What data are included in the EWIS and does the EWIS require any new data collections from school districts?
ESE intentionally designed the EWIS to rely solely on data available through existing statewide collections. The data included in the EWIS risk models comes from several data sources; the Student Information Management System (SIMS) and Student Course Schedule (SCS) data collections, as well as from assessment data results from the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and the Massachusetts English Proficiency Assessment (MEPA).

It is important to note that the predictive power of the EWIS risk models rely heavily on the accuracy of the data reported to ESE. The table below identifies which indicators are in the risk model for each grade level for the 2012-13 school year. All data, unless otherwise noted, are from the 2011-12 school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators Included in Risk Model</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
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### Indicators Included in Risk Model

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<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overage for grade</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School wide Title I</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Targeted Title I</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Math course performance</td>
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<td>Science course performance</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**C3. Why is the EWIS data available this school year considered preliminary?**

The October 2012 release of the new EWIS data is considered preliminary for several reasons. While extensive research and testing was conducted to develop the risk models, the development of risk models is considered to be a formative process and ESE expects to make
further adjustments to the model based on what is learned during the first statewide release of the data this school year. We encourage districts to submit concerns and questions about the EWIS to Edwin@doe.mass.edu to assist in the refinement of the tool.

C4. **Will there be a weighting of data points in EWIS, i.e., MCAS?**
A detailed description of the data points included in the EWIS is available in two documents that provide the technical explanations of the EWIS risk models. These technical documents are available here: [http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/analytics/ewis.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/analytics/ewis.html)

C5. **In EWIS, how will we identify students if they enroll after October SIMS submissions?**
Students that enroll post-October SIMS may be claimed through Student Claiming Process described here: [http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/dw/StudentClaiming.docx](http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/dw/StudentClaiming.docx). Once a student is claimed for your district you will be able to view their EWIS data.

C6. **Will next year’s EWIS include WIDA ACCESS for ELLs?**
Each year the Department expects to revisit the EWIS risk model designs to ensure that the risk models are as predictive as possible. One of the variables we will consider for possible inclusion in future years’ risk models is the ACCESS test results. English language learner (ELL) students are required to participate in ACCESS for ELLs tests, which replace MEPA tests, beginning in the 2012-13 school year. Any changes to the EWIS risk model designs will be reflected in our technical documentation available here: [http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/analytics/ewis.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/edwin/analytics/ewis.html) and will be reflected in the Student Report (EW601) available in Edwin.

C7. **Will local assessments (DIBELS) be uploaded in EWIS or Teaching & Learning?**
At this time locally maintained data, such as local assessments, cannot be uploaded to the EWIS reports in Edwin. However, we encourage users to download the EWIS Student List (EW601) report to Excel and maintain a local copy of the report. The Excel file can be combined with other sources of locally maintained data such as student assessments and students’ participation in interventions.

D. **Academic Goals:**

D1. **What are the expected academic goals the EWIS is associated with?**
Students are grouped by grade levels and related academic goals were identified that are developmentally appropriate, based on available state data, and meaningful and actionable for adult educators who work with the students in each grade grouping. Each academic goal is relevant to the specific age grouping, and also ultimately, connected with the last academic goal in the model - high school graduation.

For example, the early elementary age group encompasses grades one through three, and assesses risk based on the academic goal of achieving a score of proficient or higher on the third grade ELA MCAS, a proxy for reading by the end of third grade and a developmentally appropriate benchmark for children in the early grades. Reading by the end of the third grade is also associated with the final academic goal in the model of high school graduation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Academic Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Elementary</td>
<td>Grades 1-3</td>
<td>Proficient or advanced on 3rd grade ELA MCAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Elementary</td>
<td>Grades 4-6</td>
<td>Proficient or advanced on 6th grade ELA and Mathematics MCAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Grades</td>
<td>Grades 7-9</td>
<td>Passing grades on all 9th grade courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Grades 10-12</td>
<td>High school graduation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**D2. How accurate is the Massachusetts EWIS at predicting that a student will reach their upcoming academic goal?**

The accuracy of the risk models varies by grade level. Early warning systems cannot predict with 100% accuracy whether or not students will meet academic milestones. The EWIS was created to provide educators with a tool to help predict which students may be most in need of additional supports or interventions due to the likelihood that they are currently “off track” for reaching an upcoming academic goal.

The table below indicates the predictive nature of the risk models using historical data to test the models.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Low Risk Students</th>
<th>Moderate Risk Students</th>
<th>High Risk Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>81% met goal</td>
<td>59% met goal</td>
<td>32% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>83% met goal</td>
<td>59% met goal</td>
<td>30% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>84% met goal</td>
<td>59% met goal</td>
<td>28% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>88% met goal</td>
<td>54% met goal</td>
<td>16% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>89% met goal</td>
<td>52% met goal</td>
<td>15% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>90% met goal</td>
<td>51% met goal</td>
<td>12% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>92% met goal</td>
<td>67% met goal</td>
<td>24% met goal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using historical data to test the model, among:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Low Risk Students</th>
<th>Moderate Risk Students</th>
<th>High Risk Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>92% met goal</td>
<td>64% met goal</td>
<td>27% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>92% met goal</td>
<td>66% met goal</td>
<td>24% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>94% met goal</td>
<td>64% met goal</td>
<td>18% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>95% met goal</td>
<td>65% met goal</td>
<td>25% met goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>97% met goal</td>
<td>65% met goal</td>
<td>23% met goal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each grade level, the probability of a student not meeting an outcome has been calculated based on existing data. The predictive nature of this data is not absolute and the risk indicator should never be the sole piece of data used for student planning. For example, major life experiences (a more stable/unstable environment for the child, marriage/divorce, birth/death of a family member, etc.) may have an impact that offsets the EWIS results. Also, school impacts such as targeted student interventions can move a student from being "off track" (high risk) to meeting the academic goal.

It is important to note that the predictive power of the EWIS risk models rely heavily on the accuracy of the data reported to ESE. ESE will identify data reporting issues that may affect the accuracy of the EWIS risk models and will support districts to resolve these issues in order to improve the EWIS tool. In addition, we encourage feedback (please email Edwin@doe.mass.edu), to assist ESE to continually refine and improve the EWIS risk models.

D3. How many students are currently reaching their academic goals?

At a statewide level, there is wide variation in the percentage of students currently reaching their academic goals in the EWIS. As a result, districts will usually see more students in the high-risk level at the elementary grade levels than at the middle and high school grade levels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Grade Levels</th>
<th>Academic Goals</th>
<th>Current Statewide Results for Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Elementary</td>
<td>Grades 1-3</td>
<td>Proficient or advanced on 3rd grade ELA MCAS</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late</td>
<td>Grades 4-6</td>
<td>Proficient or advanced on 6th grade ELA</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
E. Risk Levels:

E1. What are the risk levels in the EWIS?

There are three risk levels in the EWIS: low, moderate, and high risk. The risk levels relate to a student’s predicted likelihood for reaching a key academic goal if the student remains on the path they are currently on (absent interventions). In other words, the risk level indicates whether the student is currently “on track” to reach the upcoming academic goal. A student who is “low risk” is predicted to be likely to meet the academic goal. The risk levels are determined using data from the previous school year.

The risk levels are determined on an individual student basis and are not based on a student’s relative likelihood for reaching an academic goal when compared with other students. As a result there are no set amounts of students in each risk level. For example, it is possible to have all students in the low-risk category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low risk</td>
<td>Likely to reach the upcoming academic goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate risk</td>
<td>Moderately at risk for not reaching the upcoming academic goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High risk</td>
<td>At risk for not reaching the upcoming academic goal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E2. How were the risk models for the EWIS determined?

ESE worked with American Institutes for Research (AIR) to develop the new risk models for the EWIS. AIR has extensive experience with developing early warning indicator systems and supporting their use at the state and local levels. Over the last year, AIR conducted an extensive literature review of the research on indicators for early warning systems. AIR then identified and tested possible indicators for the risk models based on those recognized in the research and data that are collected and available from ESE’s data system. Massachusetts’ longitudinal data system allowed AIR to test the indicators and risk models on previous school years.
years. The model for each grade level was tested and determined separately. While there are some common indicators across many grade levels, the models do vary by grade level.

E3. Does the EWIS tell us the main reason(s) why a student falls into a particular risk category?
The purpose of the EWIS is to provide an indication of the likelihood students will meet an upcoming, expected goal. The EWIS does not provide the specific reasons why students are in the low-, moderate-, or high-risk categories. Due to the nature of the complex formulas used in the risk models, the individual data points in a particular risk model are not reflective of the level of risk. Taken together, the data points (indicators) collectively form a risk level. As a result, the EWIS cannot flag which indicators are of most concern for a particular student. The indicators that are included in each model are provided for all students so that educators can examine the information and begin to determine the reasons why a student is in a particular risk category.

E4. Can I assign a risk level to a student who is new to the state?
At this time, a risk-level calculator for students new to the state is not available. This component is a possible future enhancement to the EWIS. Districts and schools are encouraged to consider using the National High School Center’s Early Warning System High School Tool: http://www.betterhighschools.org/EWS_tool.asp and the Early Warning System Middle School Tool: http://www.betterhighschools.org/EWS_middle.asp.

E5. Are students with missing information assigned risk levels?
In most cases, students with missing information are not assigned a risk level due to the nature of the risk model formulas and the reliance on complete data from the previous school year. There are two main exceptions to this for the 2012-13 school year:

- The first exception is for students who are only missing their previous MCAS scores. Due to the expected characteristics of the students, these students were automatically in the moderate-risk level in most cases. Students who are expected to be in grade 10 and were previously retained in grade 9 and are missing their grade 8 MCAS scores are in the high-risk level.
- The second exception is for students expected to be in grades 7-9 in the 2012-13 school year, who had missing or incomplete Student Course Schedule (SCS) data. Students without a letter or numeric mark describing course performance in SCS were considered incomplete. For these students an alternate (less predictive) risk model was used. It is important to note that the use of this alternate risk model is not expected to be used in future years. ESE will provide guidance on submitting quality SCS data to increase the number of students receiving risk model information in the future.

E6. Should we share EWIS risk levels with parents/families?
Risk-level information is intended to be a tool for educators, and ESE does not recommend sharing EWIS risk-level information with parents, guardians, or other family members unless that information is specifically requested. Instead, schools and districts may consider communicating with families about specific indicators, such as attendance or course performance, which the school believes are contributing factors as to why a student is off track.
for meeting an expected academic outcome. Communications with families can also include information about what resources are available at the school or in the community to address concerning indicators.

**E7. Will the EWIS help educators assign student interventions?**

The EWIS data should be viewed as one important step in the process of determining student interventions. ESE suggests that schools and districts consider using the seven-step process created by the National High School Center to analyze EWIS data, assign student interventions, and review student progress.

Information about the National High School Center’s implementation process is available here: [http://www.betterhighschools.org/documents/NHSCEWSImplementationGuide.pdf](http://www.betterhighschools.org/documents/NHSCEWSImplementationGuide.pdf)

In implementing this multi-step process, districts and schools may elect to only use the Massachusetts EWIS in place of AIR’s Step 2 – “Use the EWS Tool v2”, or they may choose to use AIR’s EWS Tool (v2) in conjunction with Massachusetts EWIS data.

**E8. What information is included on the student watch lists for the 2012-13 school year?**

The student-level lists (“student watch lists”) are available in September 2012 through the ESE Security Portal in Excel file format, and will be available through Edwin Analytics in winter 2012-13. The student-level lists will contain the student’s name, SASID, risk level, indicators that went into the risk model, and the student’s race/ethnicity. (*Note: Race is not included in any risk models, it is provided for informational purposes only.*)

Please note that students are listed in their “anticipated” grade level. For example, if a student was in grade 4 last year, the student will be listed as a grade 5 student in the preliminary EWIS report. The EWIS reports in Edwin will reflect the student’s actual grade levels as reported in the October 2012 SIMS collection.

A sample display of the current Excel file layout for grade 11 is provided below:
### Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date of Change</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.1     | 04/2/13        | - Reformatted and renumbered content.  
           |                 | - 11 new Questions added (highlighted in TOC):  
           |                 | 1. Will district determined measures of student growth live in Edwin?  
           |                 | 2. How are teacher accounts going to be set up so they can access information?  
           |                 | 3. In EWIS, how will we identify students if they enroll after October SIMS submissions?  
           |                 | 4. Will there be a weighting of data points in EWIS, i.e., MCAS?  
           |                 | 5. Will next year’s EWIS include WIDA ACCESS for ELLS?  
           |                 | 6. Will local assessments (DIEBELS) be uploaded in EWIS or Teaching & Learning?  
           |                 | 7. Will ACT scores be included?  
           |                 | 8. What kinds of educator evaluation data will be made available?  
           |                 | 9. Can charter schools track post-secondary outcomes?  
           |                 | 10. Can one see where individual students are enrolled?  
           |                 | 11. Is there data on what topics or strand in math (algebra or trig.) require development courses?  |