# Sp⟍tlight

Case Study: Eastern Suffolk BOCES

# Eastern Suffolk BOCES Puts State Data Warehouse to Work in the Classroom

The Suffolk Regional Information Center at Eastern Suffolk BOCES is using the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution for more than simply capturing state-required data elements. They are driving the creation of a data-driven culture in the districts they serve through the creation of School Data Bank Services.

## The Challenge and Solution

In 2001, the Regional Information Centers in New York purchased the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution. Their initial goals were to provide data warehouse services to constituent districts and to assist in meeting the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) accountability reporting requirements. In 2004, NYSED built upon the success the Regional Information Centers were experiencing and chose eScholar to be the backbone of its statewide data warehouse. The statewide project began by collecting data such as student demographics, enrollment, program participation, and assessment data. It has now grown to include additional domains of data such as Special Education and Career and Technical Education data. The data warehouse now stores data for over 3 million students annually.

It was not long before several of the Regional Information Centers realized that they could use the high-value data they were collecting for accountability reporting to drive instruction at the district and classroom levels. The Suffolk Regional Information Center, at the Eastern Suffolk BOCES on Long Island, was one of these centers. Suffolk RIC began loading more granular assessment data down to individual student responses on test items. They also began capturing additional data domains, such as dropout, attendance, and discipline. The center is now not only making valuable data available to the school districts, but also providing training in how to use the data for decision-making at the school and classroom level. Suffolk RIC provides these functions through its School Data Bank Services.

## School Data Bank Services

### Creating a Data-Driven Culture

Staff at Suffolk RIC realized that administrators and teachers could use data captured in the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution to make decisions in the school or classroom. In order to entice the districts to take advantage of this resource, they developed training around how to use the tools. While training was a good first step, it was also imperative to change the way administrators and teachers thought about the use of data by creating data-driven culture. To accomplish this, they created a team of "Shared Data Experts" to work with districts in the region. The team acts as staff developers and works with administrators and teachers to facilitate professional development with the goal of improving student outcomes. They do this through regular data meetings in which they advise the districts on how to implement data driven instructional methodologies. The service has grown popular among the constituent districts. Since its inception in the 2004-2005 school year, the number of districts using School Data Bank Services has nearly doubled from 22 in 2004-5 to 40 in 2006-7, approximately two thirds of the districts served by the Regional Information Center.

### Providing Analytical Tools

School Data Bank Services also provides numerous analytical tools to access or work in conjunction with data from the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution. These tools and analyses include:

- Test scoring

- Item analysis

- Progress monitoring

- Assessment comparison

- Instructional recommendation

- Intervention management

- Response to Intervention (RTI)

DataMentor is a tool offered by the School Data Bank Services designed to assist teachers, administrators, curriculum specialists, and other professionals in the examination of assessment data. It was developed by the Regional Information Center at the Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES and is offered by several of the other Regional Information Centers to their constituent districts. DataMentor includes connections to instructional resources such as online lesson plans for teachers to examine, review, and implement in the classroom.

Finally, School Data Bank Services provides reports from the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution through Cognos ReportNet. Many of the reports mimic state validation reports and report cards, giving districts a chance to review reports before the data is submitted to the State. Suffolk RIC plans to make several of these reports available through the ReportNet dashboard allowing districts to get an immediate view into their data when they log into the system.

## Harnessing the Power of eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® Solution

Suffolk RIC is finding success in creating a data-driven culture amongst the districts they serve. They are successfully leveraging the power and value of the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution to ease the reporting burden of its constituent districts, and to drive instruction. They are able to use the warehouse's open architecture to load data from multiple sources and use multiple reporting tools to get the most out of the data. The breadth and granularity of the data enable teachers and administrators to make instructional decisions for individual students based on responses to questions on multiple tests. With plans to expand their data collection to include staff, course grades, formative assessments, and surveys, their districts will readily have access to powerful, consolidated information that currently resides in disparate systems.

# Highlights:

- The Suffolk Regional Information Center is using the high-value data they were collecting from districts for state accountability reporting, adding more granular assessment data down to individual student responses on test items, and enabling districts to use the data to drive instruction at classroom levels.

- Through its School Data Bank Services, the Suffolk RIC provides numerous analytical tools to access or work in conjunction with data from the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution, including test scoring, item analysis, intervention management, and Response to Intervention.

- DataMentor is a tool that combines data from the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution with instructional resources such as lesson plans for teachers to examine, review, and implement in the classroom.

- Using Cognos ReportNet in combination with the eScholar Complete Data Warehouse® solution, Suffolk RIC has developed several reports that actually mimic state validation reports and report cards, giving districts a chance to review reports before the data is submitted to the State.

## About eScholar

eScholar is the nation's leading educational data system company. eScholar clients have achieved phenomenal success using our data management and analysis solutions to track and improve pre-K through postsecondary student achievement. Relied on by over 3,400 school districts across the country, eScholar transforms the way educators use and understand the data collected through a myriad of sources. For more information about eScholar, visit www.escholar.com.

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222 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 107
White Plains, NY 10605

914.989.2900 Tel
914.989.2990 Fax

www.escholar.com