



**U.S. Department of Education
Office of the Chief Information Officer**

Open Government Plan: 2015 Progress Update

Final

May 14, 2015



Purpose

The Open Government Plan: 2015 Progress Update details all updates made to the initiatives outlined in [the latest Open Government Plan](#). This document covers all updates between June 2014, the last publication date, and the present.

Updates are listed by section (including page numbers), initiatives, commitments, and if applicable, status updates. Some initiatives will also provide links within their status updates, allowing users to find additional details.



Progress / Status Updates on the ED Open Government Plan June 2015

Section (and Page Number in 2014 Plan)	Initiative	Commitments	Status Update
Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration in Programs (pages 3-4)	Department of Education Disclosure Review Board (ED-DRB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Charter Capacity Building Major Data Releases Reviewed Use Case Study CIO Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets regularly to review upcoming releases Featured in a Use Case Study conducted by the CIO Council (March 2015)
Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration in Programs (page 4)	Technical Assistance on Publishing and Sharing Data While Preserving Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide resources and assistance to the Privacy community within the Department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released a new training kit for Data Breach Response (February 2015) Released a new training video about "Protecting Student Privacy While Using Online Educational Services" and a model terms of service (February 2015)
Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration in Programs (page 4)	Race to the Top—Game-Changing Reforms		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see all updates on Race to the Top on Progress Blog.
Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration in Programs (page 6)	Race to the Top Assessment Program		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see all updates on Race to the Top on Progress Blog.
Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration in Programs (page 7)	The Listening and Learning Tour—Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Reauthorization		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This initiative is complete.



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Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration in Programs (page 8)	Investing in Innovation (i3)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The i3 Program continues to post new overview information on each grant competition. This includes the received notices of intent received and the list of organizations submitting intents. After each closing date, the number of applications received and the list of applications are also published.
Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration in Programs (page 8)	National Education Technology Plan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Ed Tech Plan is now included as part of the new tech.ed.gov's responsive website design. Users should now find the National ED Tech Plan available, with information easier to obtain.
Transparency, Participation, and Collaboration in Programs (page 10)	Federal Student Aid (FSA) College.gov		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a part of the Integrated Student View, all content that was a part of the college.gov site is now available as a part of the StudentAid.gov website. The standalone college.gov has been retired.
Strategic Action Plan for Open Government (page 11)	Navigating ED's Data Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased engagement with the public using ED communication tools (ed.gov blog) Expansion of the number of data inventory entries linked to public data sets New effort to streamline inventory and collection clearance, resulting in improved sustainability of the inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With 71 datasets currently available, progress is being made towards the FY15 goal of providing 79 public datasets with Inventory entries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up from the 66 publicly-available datasets made at the end of FY14. An IT investment request is being developed for a new collection clearance tool. The tool will be integrated with the Inventory, allowing for better inventory content maintenance.
Strategic Action Plan for Open Government (page 12)	Early Participation and Input in Policy- and Rule-Making		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates for this initiative at this time: These are ongoing efforts.



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Strategic Action Plan for Open Government (page 12)	Federal Registry for Educational Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign the website. • Increase engagement and collaboration with crowdsourcing tools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a response to the increasing usage of mobile devices, FREE launched a new, responsive website design.
Strategic Action Plan for Open Government (pages 13-15)	Federal Student Aid Integrated Student Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA State API • StudentAid.gov • Mobile Accessibility • MyStudentData • Customer Listening Initiative • FAFSASimplification /IRS Data Retrieval Tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitments completed under the Federal Student Aid Integrated Student Experience are continually updated to meet the needs of students and other FSA customers.
Strategic Action Plan for Open Government (page 15)	Public Challenges and Contests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White House Student Film Festival • Other public challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4th Annual Healthy Lunchtime Challenge 2015 • 3rd Annual Healthy Lunchtime Challenge 2014 • WHIAAPI E3! Challenge: Educate, Engage, and Empower Young AAPI Leaders (July-August 2014)
Strategic Action Plan for Open Government (page 16)	Connected Communities of Practice		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates for this initiative at this time: These are ongoing efforts.
Strategic Action Plan for Open Government (page 17)	ED Data Express		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automated transfer process between ED Facts and ED Data Express for key data elements. Additional efficiency-related improvements including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expanded mapping features, ○ Release of customer satisfaction surveys, ○ Ability to personalize the user experience
Strategic Action Plan for Open Government (page 18)	Open Government Steering Committee		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compilation of the 2015 Open Government Progress Report. • Participation in the Open Government Steering Committee.



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Timely Online Publishing (page 19-20)	Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Adult Education Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the public and stakeholders on Career Pathways and other key initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ED, HHS and DOL continue to work together on Career Pathways initiative (March 2015 blog post "Career Pathways on the Move!") ED and DOL announced Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act – Five Notices of Proposed Rulemaking Available for Public Comment through June 15, 2015.
Timely Online Publishing (page 20)	Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand CRDC Data with the completion of the uploading and presentation of the 2011-2012 CRDC data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Education’s (ED) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has received OMB approval to require every public school and school district to respond to the 2013-14 CRDC. It includes most of the data items collected through the 2011-2012 CRDC, with a small number of new data items.
Timely Online Publishing (page 20)	Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open Government Initiative for the Office for Civil Rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An important aspect of OCR’s strategy for administering and enforcing civil rights statutes is the development of the Civil Rights Data Collection. The Department collects a variety of data on educational and civil rights issues in the public education system. Information collected in the CRDC is used not only within the Department, but also by researchers and policymakers in the public sphere. Parties interested in using the CRDC can access its data via a publically accessible website.



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Timely Online Publishing (page 20)	Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of data visualization capabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both longitudinal and detailed graphical displays of English Language Learner (ELL), Discipline and Disability data make it allow users to easily grasp levels of compliance and/or reflect areas for potential concern and investigation by OCR. The expansion of this type of presentation mode dramatically increased during the application of the 2011-2012 CRDC data. This will continue forward into the current collection, and eventually to the CRDC 2013-2014 data.
Timely Online Publishing (page 20)	Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased instructions content provided to schools and local education area data providers for the 2013-2014 CRDC data collection effort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School districts received an email from OCR in May 2014 about the CRDC including information about how to update their contact information and school directories and how to access a variety of technical assistance resources at https://crdc.grads360.org/#communities. A new web-based tool will make it easier for school districts to enter data. On April 16, 2015, each school district will receive an email with the district's username and password so that they will be able to begin the process of entering data from the 2013-14 school years. Additional information about the data submission phase of the CRDC will be available on https://crdc.grads360.org/#communities.



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Timely Online Publishing (page 20)	Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased instructions content provided to schools and local education area data providers for the 2013-2014 CRDC data collection effort 	<p><i>2013-14 Table Layouts with Definitions</i> Below are the table layouts for the 2013-14 CRDC for schools and LEAs. The table layouts include items required for the 2013-14 CRDC, items optional for the 2013-14 CRDC, and items required for the 2015-16 CRDC. Because many of the CRDC school-level items are only applicable to high schools, a shortened version of the table layout is also available for schools that have a highest grade of 6 or 8. All data collected by the 2013-14 CRDC are data for the 2013-14 school years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013-14 LEA Form 2013-14 School Form (full set of CRDC school-level questions for all schools and justice facilities, including high schools, and schools with the highest grade no higher than 8 that offer Algebra I or Geometry) 2013-14 Elementary School Form (only for schools with the highest grade not greater than 6) 2013-14 Elementary/Middle School Form (only for schools with the highest grade not greater than 8 that do not offer Algebra I or Geometry) <p><i>Flat File Specifications</i> The list of data elements and flat file submission instructions and additional guidance documents are available for school districts and states that will be submitting their 2013-14 CRDC data in a flat file format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRDC 2013-14 Flat File Submission Instructions CRDC SY 2013-14 List of Elements: Excel spreadsheet with tabs for LEA and school level data elements. 2013-14 School-level Table Layout with Flat File Data Element Names 2013-14 LEA-level Table Layout with Flat File Data Element Names



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Timely Online Publishing (page 20)	Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased instructions content provided to schools and local education area data providers for the 2013-2014 CRDC data collection effort 	<p><i>Additional Information</i></p> <p>Additional information about the 2013-14 CRDC can be found here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013-14 and 2015-16 CRDC Questions and Answers Detailed list of CRDC data elements
Timely Online Publishing (page 21)	The Learning Registry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop new features for the Learning Registry with the community 	<p>The Office of Education Technology also released new guides in the past year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future Ready Schools: Building Technology Infrastructure for Learning The Future Ready District: Professional Learning Through Online Communities of Practice April 2015 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ed Tech Developer's Guide
Timely Online Publishing (page 21)	RSA Management Information System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to support Objective 1.4 by posting our formula grant process for the Basic VR program; our on-line tool allows anyone to verify our awards by showing the formula step-by-step for all grantees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New queries are continuously added to use in the online Ad-Hoc Query Tool.



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Timely Online Publishing (page 22)	Data.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Inventory Updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Inventory functionality to generate data.gov JSON file was updated in January 2015 to meet new specifications.
Timely Online Publishing (page 23)	Data.Ed.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Inventory Updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department launched a Data Inventory website, which generates the data.json file that is harvested for Data.gov/education.
Timely Online Publishing (page 23)	eRulemaking		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The public uses Regulations.gov to access the Department of Education’s proposed, interim final, and final regulations. Other regulatory documents, including requests for information, proposed discretionary grant priorities, and requests for comment on information collections are under the Paperwork Reduction Act.
Timely Online Publishing (page 24)	IT Dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely publication of data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department continues to add and review new major investments on a regular basis to the IT Dashboard during FY15 and FY16. The health of each major investment is also retrieved to update the IT Dashboard accordingly.
Timely Online Publishing (page 25)	EDFacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely publication of data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates for this initiative at this time. These are ongoing efforts.
Timely Online Publishing (page 25)	IDEAData.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDEAdata.org website status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDEA Section 618 data is no longer available on the IDEAData.org website. Instead, users can now access data on the IDEA Section 618 page of ed.gov.



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Timely Online Publishing (page 25)	FSA Data Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA Data Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA Data Center: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since 2014, Federal Student Aid (FSA) has greatly expanded the information it provides about the outstanding federal student loan portfolio to include quarterly reports by loan type, delinquency, deferment type, and forbearance type. Additionally, FSA posts servicer reports by loan status and repayment plan. ○ To help customers better understand and analyze these various data sets, FSA now publishes a quarterly announcement that explains key insights and learnings.



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Timely Online Publishing (page 25)	FSA Data Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAFSA Completion Tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FAFSA Completion Tool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In recent years, the FAFSA Completion Tool was also added on the FSA Data Center. The FAFSA Completion Tool provides high schools with current data about their FAFSA submissions and completions so schools can track their progress and help to ensure that their students complete a FAFSA. Previously, high schools relied on self-reported surveys to estimate their FAFSA completion rate and that data can be inaccurate. For this reason, FSA provides high schools with current data about their FAFSA submissions and completions so that high schools can track their progress and help to ensure that their students complete a FAFSA. Subsequent enhancements to the FAFSA Completion Tool provided not just the FAFSA submission and completion totals for any high school for the current year, but also to more accurately gauge the impact of outreach efforts and identify successful local strategies.



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Participation and Collaboration (pages 26-27)	OpenED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action (DVAAP) Program Plan Updated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Office of Management, Office of Human Resources (OHR; formerly Human Capital and Client Services) is moving forward to ensure a more diverse and Inclusive environment in accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 13583, <i>“Establishing a Coordinated Government-Wide Initiative to Promote Diversity and Inclusion in the Federal Workforce.”</i> Updates have been made to the DVAAP Plan to ensure that job information targeting disabled veterans reaches them properly. This includes partnerships with colleges and targeted emails. DVAAP updates also include initiatives such as quarterly information sessions and the “Vets2Feds” initiative, helping to increase awareness of opportunities for disabled veterans at the Department.
Participation and Collaboration (pages 26-27)	OpenED (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program (FEORP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department continues to improve employment opportunities for Veterans, Individuals with Disabilities, Targeted Disabilities, and underrepresented groups across all occupations, including mission critical positions and grade levels. The Department increased in the total number of Veterans at 8.8% out of the total workforce.
Participation and Collaboration (pages 26-27)	OpenED (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity and Inclusion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action (DVAAP) Program Plan and Federal Equal Opportunity Recruitment Program (FEORP) Plan has been updated.



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Participation and Collaboration (page 28)	Empowering Students and Families as Stakeholders and Collaborators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Media Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using social media accounts like Twitter and Facebook, the Department encouraged students and parents to appreciate teachers by writing comments and posting them with the hashtag #ThankATeacher.
Participation and Collaboration (page 28)	Empowering Students and Families as Stakeholders and Collaborators (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Preparedness Campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a part of a partnership with FEMA, the #Preparathon emergency-preparedness campaign, the Department helped to disseminate information for students and families across various social media outlets related to education and safety. The Department partnered with FEMA to also become one of the first federal government partners for the campaign.
Participation and Collaboration (page 28)	Empowering Students and Families as Stakeholders and Collaborators (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #ItsOnUs Campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a part of the #ItsOnUs campaign, the Department helps students and families identify the issues of sexual assault on college campuses. The campaign also helps to awareness on college campuses across the country about standing against sexual assault.
Participation and Collaboration (page 30)	Public Participation at ED.gov and through Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the availability of public data • Public Knowledge of ED Website Redesign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing the public about the availability of public data via Twitter (@EdNCES Fast Facts), highlighting the existence of ERIC's blog and IES/NCES data. • Keeping the public informed about our website redesign and upcoming changes.
Participation and Collaboration (page 30)	Privacy Technical Assistance Center and Related Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance on Student Privacy Protections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Released a new training kit for Data Breach Response (February 2015) • Released a new training video about "Protecting Student Privacy While Using Online Educational Services" and a model terms of service (February 2015)



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Participation and Collaboration (page 33)	Digital Systems Interoperability	IT Modernization Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ED completed its annual review and update of to the Information Technology Modernization Plan and Roadmap for FY15
Participation and Collaboration (page 33)	Enabling More Web Publishing at ED.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded use of WordPress and Drupal Improved design and online customer experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched mobile-friendly redesign of ED.gov in two phases: June 2014 and January 2015 Upgraded ED.gov web content management system (upgrade to Drupal 7) Streamlined the publishing process and display for Grants Forecast and Apply for a Grant pages (read more on Homeroom blog about Improving the Customer Experience for Grant Opportunities)
Participation and Collaboration (page 34)	Rehabilitation Services Administration ARRA Funding Guidance Assistance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This initiative is no longer active.
Internal Process Improvements (page 36)	Data Strategy Team		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates for this initiative at this time: These are ongoing efforts.
Internal Process Improvements (page 37)	.Gov Web Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AWS GovCloud Migration IPv6 Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major updates for ED-owned .gov domains were planned for 2015. No new second-level .gov domains were established in 2015. Updates that occurred in 2015 include the transfer of the IES site (ies.ed.gov) to Amazon’s AWS GovCloud servers. In addition, three ED-owned “.gov” domains are now only IPv4, rather than IPv6, compliant.



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Internal Process Improvements (page 37)	Chief Privacy Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ED’s Chief Privacy Officer (CPO), continues to be responsible for coordinating and directing a number of open government initiatives within the Department. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For updates, please see ed.gov’s Office of the Chief Privacy Officer page.
Internal Process Improvements (page 38)	Public Notifications via ED.gov and Digital Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website redesign Implementation of new search tool Increase use of e-newsletters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched mobile-friendly redesign of ED.gov in two phases: June 2014 and January 2015. Implemented use of DigitalGov Search tool provided by General Services Administration (June 2014) Email newsletter and list subscriptions increased 19% in the past year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 323,160 subscribers in April 2015 (compared to 271,463 in April 2014)
Internal Process Improvements (page 39)	ED Records Management Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capstone Email Initiative Electronic Records Management System Initiative Mandatory all-employee RM training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure preservation of senior officials’ permanent emails. Begin EERMS initiative to implement electronic recordkeeping system in FY16. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In FY14, 95% of ED employees completed RM online training.



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Internal Process Improvements (page 40)	FOIA Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and Outreach • Proactive Postings 	<p>Training/Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff from the FOIA Service Center (FSC) and the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) conducted FOIA Appeals training for ED FOIA professionals. • FSC and OGC Staff conducted a two-day training for OCR’s FOIA personnel and provided • FOIA Coordinators in individual ED program offices two refresher courses on the Department’s internal FOIA process, and the proper usage of the nine FOIA exemptions. <p>Proactive Postings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSA is continuously posts its FPRDs to the FSA Data Center. • OCR began a practice of uploading nearly all of its civil rights resolution agreements to its website.
Internal Process Improvements (page 40)	FOIA Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology • Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) 	<p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In late 2014, the latest version of FOIAXpress was deployed. • Currently, FOIAXpress is going through the approval process to move FOIAXpress to a hosted environment. This migration will vastly improve the software’s performance and improve response times. <p>SOPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FSC has developed standard operating procedures that are currently in the final review stage. • In addition to the before mentioned SOPs, the FSC has created an online FOIA/PA Guide that is intended to provide the general public a better understanding of our FOIA program and how to file requests with the Department.



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Internal Process Improvements (page 41)	Congressional Requests for Information		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OLCA is working to get a guidance document related to how Congressional offices submit inquiries approved for posting online. The biggest concern right now is that for the over 4,000 annual inquiries on behalf of individual constituents, ED requires a Privacy Act release form, complete with Social Security Numbers (SSN) and other sensitive personally-identifiable information (SPII). Our revised guidance document outlines what ED does to ensure protection of SPII and addresses the issue of how we advise Congressional offices to submit these sensitive documents. Currently, OLCA's draft document is with Kristen LeFevre for policy guidance from the Privacy Office.
Internal Process Improvements (page 42)	Whistleblower Protections		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act Non-Disclosure Agreement page on ED.gov and the Department's NO FEAR ACT reports.
Internal Process Improvements (page 43)	Department Roadmap for Incorporating Principles of Openness into Core Agency Missions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating open government principles into strategic plan goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the Department of Education Strategic Plan and Reports.