April 13, 2017

I, Jason Gray, the undersigned Chief Information Officer of the U.S. Department of Education, certify that my agency will comply with the following reporting requirements of the OMB Memorandum “Data Center Optimization Initiative (DCOI)”; as well as the data center-related reporting requirements in FITARA:

- ED will not budget any funds or resources toward initiating a new data center or significantly expanding an existing data center without approval from OMB OFCIO.
- ED will continue to principally reduce application, system and database inventories to essential enterprise levels by increasing the use of virtualization to enable pooling of storage, network and computer resources, and dynamic allocation on-demand.
- ED will evaluate options for the consolidation and closure of existing data centers, by (in order of priority): 1. Transitioning to provisioned services; 2. Migrating to inter-agency shared services or co-location data centers; and 3. Migrating to more optimized data centers.
- ED will self-classify data centers as either tiered or non-tiered data centers. Of note, ED closed its last agency-owned data center in Q1 FY2017 and does not have any remaining data centers for the purposes of the memorandum; all remaining hosting data is at private sector-provided cloud services, which were included in the Q1 FY2017 inventory data submission and will continue to be updated for future quarters. Based on previous guidance from OMB under the FDCCI program, ED did not include entries related to private sector-provided cloud services.
- ED will submit quarterly data center-related reporting requirements and milestones per fiscal year to the extent possible. However, ED will not have 5 milestones per fiscal year achieved through DCOI (see below).
- ED submitted a DCOI Strategic Plan, including a valid JSON file, on 30 September 2016 and will continue to comply with the requirement to submit updates for all required submission dates including, 14 April 2017 and 13 April 2018.
- ED completed a comprehensive review of its data center inventories associated with tiered and non-tiered data centers by the August 31, 2016 deadline. ED also completed a comprehensive review and submission of private sector-based cloud services by November 30, 2016 and will continue to provide updates within quarterly Integrated Data Collection (IDC) submissions.

My agency is unable to comply with the full reporting requirements of the DCOI because:

- The OMB memo requires agencies to submit 5 milestones per fiscal year achieved through the DCOI. ED is unable to comply due to the lack of agency-owned tiered and non-tiered data centers. ED completed DCOI data center closings in Q1 FY2017 and no longer has any agency-owned tiered and non-tiered data centers in operation.
- ED will not install automated energy metering tools, as the agency does not have any tiered or non-tiered data centers.
- ED will not provide substantive metrics for Table 1, Government-wide Optimization Targets for Tiered Data Centers, as the agency does not have tiered data centers.

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The Department of Education’s mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.
Lastly, my agency has verified that the accompanying Strategic Plan is a valid JSON file, conforms to the schema on management.cio.gov/schema, and addresses all of the requirements for it specified in the DCOI. Furthermore, I confirm that this Strategic Plan has been posted publicly at ed.gov/digitalstrategy/datacenteroptimizationstrategicplan.json under the heading “Data Center Optimization Initiative Strategic Plans”.

Signed,

[Signature]

Jason Gray
U.S. Department of Education

Date: 4/13/17