

Design and Implementation Planning



Education agencies are looking for better ways to integrate applications and data, and have learned that point-to-point synchronization between data systems is not sustainable. Furthermore, first generation data warehouses and dashboards aren't providing an adequate enterprise foundation to serve a growing need for accessibility to high-quality data.

Certica Solutions works with education agencies to evolve to a next generation data architecture that supports data integration and application interoperability in a manner that is efficient, cost-effective, reliable, and sustainable. Certica helps education agencies realize the benefits of next generation data architecture by providing consulting services in the areas of requirements definition, readiness assessment, architecture design and implementation planning services, tailored to meet organizational goals and objectives.

The goal of Certica's Design and Implementation Planning Service is to provide the education agency with concrete steps in the design of next generation data architecture, from a technical, organizational and investment perspective.

Once the future organizational goals of the education agency have been defined and checked against the Education Data Maturity Model, which is a defined data maturity benchmark, the service enables the agency to confirm and reinforce the future state outlined, as well as the steps needed to achieve it. The result of the Design and Implementation Planning should be viewed as the foundation for a targeted future state solution. In addition to a recommended technical approach, management and operational initiatives are also highlighted.

During the Design and Implementation Planning phase, Certica conducts a series of collaborative sessions with the agency. At the conclusion of these facilitated sessions, the agency will be provided with:

- A baseline knowledge of enterprise architecture, as well as a clear comparison to the agency's current state
- Architectural alternatives and cost factors to consider
- An informed, recommended future state
- A gap analysis outlining the shift from the current to future state, including management, operational and technical considerations
- A market analysis of the recommended future state
- A collaboratively developed action plan, including a recommended roadmap reflective of the business goals outlined in the sessions.

How Does Certica Engage?

Certica conducts two collaborative sessions:

1. JAD (Joint Application Design) session. Purpose: collaboratively work to agree to the future state.
 - 12 people per JAD session, including IT and stakeholders from across the agency
 - Because of the makeup of the group, including those who are not typically involved in IT projects, these sessions are educational and outline basic technical concepts related to enterprise architecture.
 - Architectural alternatives and the considerations of each are outlined.
 - The goal of the session is to relate group objectives to economic investment and impact.
2. Roadmapping Session. This session helps stakeholders identify the recommendations and steps needed to achieve the future state, using the Education Data Maturity Model as a framework. Certica encourages healthy debate of impacts so that IT investments can be directed to provide the organization with the greatest benefit. A recognized benefit of the stakeholder-inclusive approach practiced by Certica is that there is a strong organizational commitment to IT initiatives that can transcend changes in the agency, including changes in leadership or budget.

At the conclusion of an engagement, the two collaborative sessions are documented and outlined by Certica. Documentation includes:

- Architectural diagrams.
- Set of steps and specific recommendations based upon the Education Data Maturity Model.
- Roadmap and timeline by year, highlighting quick wins in the first year to help secure continued stakeholder support of the initiative.