A&M EDUCATION SERVICES

Reimagining Data to Manage Education Outcomes

BACKGROUND

After a long period of classroom disruption, most notably school shutdowns driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, education and community leaders are looking for ways to realign and transform learning to better position students for lifelong success and meaningful employment. Funding is available through several federal and state programs, and the time is right to invest in solutions that improve education outcomes and drive workforce success.

THE CHALLENGE: WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORKING

A major challenge, right now, is that we can't accurately measure what's working in education. Without good data, how can we know which interventions best address learning loss? Or which innovations can best connect students to meaningful employment? Today's education data isn't meeting expectations despite increasing demand from the public, practitioners and employers. Organizations trying to make sense of potential solutions are confronted with antiquated, disconnected, inaccessible and/or missing information, and they are understandably frustrated. Compounding the information challenges are long delays in reporting that render data out of date by the time it is accessible. The consequences of these gaps are real. Consider the following:

- Colleges lack the data to match their programs to local workforce demands;

- Parents and teachers cannot assess the impact of community programs on student success because of the disconnect between education and social services data;

- Sparse reporting on early learning programs creates an enormous gap in our understanding of access to childcare, particularly at a time when these services are receiving increased funding and focus.

OPPORTUNITY: CHANGING PERCEPTIONS AND CAPABILITIES

Despite these challenges, this problem is not impossible to solve, especially now. The market is ready to invest in and improve education outcomes. Parents, educators and employers want and expect robust and data-driven solutions. Technologies to produce powerful insights and accelerate transformation are more affordable and accessible than ever.

A&M's Public Sector partners with organizations to help them understand and activate the power of their data to improve education outcomes and workforce success. We work with clients to identify data gaps and implement changes to how they collect, organize and present data to drive insight. We designed our approach to help our clients leverage modern technologies well suited to their needs and well supported by the market to accelerate results.

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Discover and Design	Envision Future State	Implement
▪ Research and review existing service model, including services provided, stakeholders impacted and value delivered ▪ Understand current technical, organizational and process capabilities and gaps ▪ Summarize use cases for the existing service model ▪ Document key requirements and gaps for future-state design ▪ Design and complete a proof of concept to test a potential future-state design ▪ Extract learnings from proof of concept to inform future-state design	▪ Develop comprehensive future-state design ▪ Estimate costs, staffing needs and other resourcing to successfully execute future-state design ▪ Identify critical delivery partners ▪ Develop a transformation roadmap including project plans, key activities, milestones and outcomes	▪ Guide development of a modern data pipeline ▪ Train and upskill team members to improve capabilities ▪ Refine operational processes in alignment with technological improvements ▪ Finalize and launch

Improving Data Capabilities: Our Approach

CASE-IN-POINT: STATE-LEVEL POSTSECONDARY AGENCY

In response to greater competition from online programs and increased user demands, a state agency wanted to transform its capabilities so that it could provide better data and information on postsecondary performance in the state. The agency engaged A&M to assess its current systems, identify priority use cases and provide the agency with a system design to transform its capabilities and value proposition. We continue to partner with the agency to increase its capacity to manage the new technologies, whose new capabilities will advance their data and analysis maturity by decades.

Key Activities and Outcomes:

▪ Identified stakeholder needs and gaps

▪ Assessed current state of data system, environment and capabilities

▪ Guided the agency through the decision process to select specific technologies

▪ Partnered to develop a proof of concept to demonstrate value/business case

CASE-IN-POINT: LARGE NON-PROFIT

A national foundation identified the need to support public-private collaboration to significantly cut implementation costs and increase return on states' investments in their education data systems. The foundation engaged A&M to craft a community of innovation where states could share emerging learnings and innovative practices and access tools. We brought our experience in state education data to help structure the objectives, operating model, governance and launch of the community.

Key Activities and Outcomes:

▪ Leveraged understanding of state education data systems to engage potential members and capture participant needs from the proposed community

▪ Defined the community strategy, structure and operating model

▪ Established governance and leadership of the community

▪ Defined key projects to eliminate states' most common and complex technology and governance barriers to improving education insights

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With over 6,000 people across four continents, we deliver tangible results for corporates, boards, private equity firms, law firms and government agencies facing complex challenges. Our senior leaders, and their teams, leverage A&M's restructuring heritage to help companies act decisively, catapult growth and accelerate results. We are experienced operators, world-class consultants, former regulators and industry authorities with a shared commitment to telling clients what's really needed for turning change into a strategic business asset, managing risk and unlocking value at every stage of growth.

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