

Schools Out Notification System
Implementation Funding Request
Presented to lowAccess Advisory Council
January 10, 2006

Goal:

The goal of this project is to make improvements to the existing application to accommodate features requested by the media and school administrators who have begun to review and utilize the application and to predict load potential resulting from a widespread closing event.

Project Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to implement enhancements to the current Schools Out application that is in the pilot stage of implementation. Our plan is to engage approximately 25 districts of varied size and geographic location to begin using the application. We have also started discussions with media outlets that will be receiving this information and have garnered very strong support for the system. There is, however, some functionality that would make it easier for the media to receive the closing information and integrate it into their internal notification management systems.

While currently in the pilot phase, our goal is to offer this service to districts throughout the state. Should a weather event cause a wide spread closing, we need to be sure that the application, and the infrastructure supporting it, will be able to withstand such traffic levels. In order to do so, it is critical that we conduct appropriate stress testing to make the service as reliable as possible and avoid the embarrassment of a failure at such a critical juncture.

Request:

ITE continues to act as the sponsor this project. ITE is requesting funding for first year hosting fees, which were not covered in the prior funding request, as well as funds to cover application stress testing and implementing the enhancements identified through meetings with the two largest Des Moines-area media outlets. The enhancements will provide interface development and integration testing with existing media software packages as well as some sorting and display enhancements identified.

First Year Hosting costs:

Server/Database	\$8,700.00
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Lyris email list server	\$200.00
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Enhancements and Testing

Stress testing	\$3400.00	40 hours
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Requested enhancements	\$4250.00	45 hours
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Total Request	\$16,550.00
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Cost Avoidance:

Our intent continues to be to provide a free service to assist schools and the citizens of the state. Meetings with KCCI TV and WHO Radio resulted in very positive feedback. The plan to have schools notifications data available to integrate with current media software applications is very appealing. Any reduction in the amount of time media outlets spend collecting and entering school closing data will provide more accurate data and better service

for viewers and listeners. To date, 4 schools districts have been setup in the pilot program with the goal to have 25 schools districts involved as quickly as possible.

Interested Parties:

Parties interested in this project include school administrators, parents and guardians of school-age children, the media and day care providers.

Some of the Recipients of this Service:

School administrators, Parents and guardians of school-age children, Media/news outlets, Public Safety personnel