



## BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE **A GLOBAL PROOF POINT**

**SUN CAN TRANSFORM THE ICT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT TO MEET AND EXCEED THE EXPECTATIONS OF EDUCATORS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS.**

With proven and secure solutions, Sun has the imagination and world-class expertise to deliver exceptional technology in a dynamic way that's practical, enjoyable and rewarding.

Our technology is available today and designed for the future. Our approach is environmentally-sustainable and highly cost-effective...helping schools to gain the maximum value from their ICT budgets.

**DATA WAREHOUSING SOLUTION HELPS WESTERN  
NEW YORK STATE IMPROVE STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

# BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

## A GLOBAL PROOF POINT

### Industry

Primary and Secondary (K-12) Education

### Institution

Western New York Regional Information Center (WNYRIC)

Erie 1 Board of Cooperative Educational Services, New York State, USA

### Solution Providers

- Cognos Incorporated
- eScholar™, LLC
- Oracle® Corporation
- Sun Microsystems, Inc.

### Key Challenge

Utilize technology for data analysis to improve student performance

### Key Solutions

- Cognos Series 7, Version 2 (7.1)
- eScholar 5.0
- Oracle 8i
- Solaris™ 8 Operating Environment
- Sun Enterprise™ 420R
- 4 UltraSPARC® II 450 MHz processors
- 2 Sun StorEdge™ A1000 arrays

Primary and secondary educators in school districts worldwide face demanding and often cumbersome requirements to report academic progress, and this task is not getting any easier.

To keep up with state and provincial standards and other objectives, including the U.S. Department of Education's No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), districts require robust systems to access data.

Several years ago the Western New York Regional Information Center (WNYRIC), one of 12 such centers within New York State's Department of Education, faced the challenge of providing a data-driven decision support system. The result was a secure and reliable data warehouse system that facilitates continuous assessment of student achievement and performance—executed through eScholar™, a data warehouse solution designed specifically to meet the needs of primary and secondary education, running on Sun Microsystems hardware.

### Cooperating on the cutting edge

WNYRIC supports 250,000 students in 100 school districts across five regional public education service organizations in the westernmost section of New York State, including the Erie 1 Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Erie 1 BOCES). Like its 11 counterpart centers across the state, WNYRIC works cooperatively with its component school districts. All centers have a role to play in delivering cutting-edge information technology services to individual districts through an expansive telecommunications network.

In the mid-1990s, district superintendents in western New York knew they had to begin making instructional decisions based on data, rather than hunches. That's when WNYRIC went to work on the project. The greatest challenge was to assemble information from multiple student and special education data management systems, most of which are building based, along with test data from publishers and local test scoring systems. The process continues to be a challenge, but the benefits far outweigh the technical complications.

By 1999 all 12 regional information center directors recognized the value in finding a vendor with an existing product that could help them advance their data warehouse initiative. The directors selected eScholar, the most widely used data warehouse solution for primary and secondary school systems in the United States today. Currently serving some 800 school districts around the country, eScholar integrates and cleanses data from a wide variety of sources, providing educators with critical, decision-making intelligence and reporting capabilities. The eScholar solution is built entirely around open standards, and can be easily scaled and customized to meet the needs of almost any size district—from as small as 800 students to as large as a million or more students.

The analysis capabilities of the WNYRIC warehouse malleable data views and reports provide districts with a data-driven foundation for instructional improvement.



