BrightBytes

Before beginning any project, it's a good idea to gather as much data as possible. Gathering and inputting applicable data can be difficult and sifting through that data can be time-consuming and lead to confusing results.

BrightBytes in San Francisco has developed modules that do the heavy lifting for districts and ESAs.

"Through our framework, we help provide a lens to identify data for vertical and horizontal growth and alignment," said Rob Residori, a senior education research leader with BrightBytes. "We gather and analyze information and provide research and analysis so our clients can take the next step."

BrightBytes has developed modules for different aspects of education, including modules specifically for ESAs.

"Through a research framework, we can look at all types of services provided including the level of skills, the access to technology, professional development, organizational policies and procedures and best practices, among others, " Residori said. "This information helps identify the gaps and strengths of an organization."

BrightBytes employs a cadre of education experts who analyze the data and offer specific suggestions to help improve organizational capacity.

One module recently developed for an ESA focused on data privacy. The module helps ESAs better understand how their policies on data information affect overall technology usage, Residori said.

Another module developed for ESAs and used throughout West Virginia involves using algorithms to identify students at risk of dropping out of school as early as first grade, said senior education research leader Kathy Platt.

"We take the heavy lifting off organizations that have identified goals," Platt said. "They need data but they don't have time to collect, input or gather the data. We make it all available."

While BrightBytes is only four years old, its products are used in one in six schools across the nation, Residori said. The modules don't require any special hardware and the company provides training, goal setting and thought leadership, he said.

For more information, go to brightbytes.net

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