



REACTS

Records Exchange Advice, Communication, and Technical Support Newsletter

MSIX Training for MEP Parent Liaisons in Pennsylvania

The Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) is a secure web-based portal that links states' migrant student record databases to facilitate the national exchange of migrant students' educational and health information among states. MSIX is only available to authorized users. The users are typically the local school registrars and counselors, or Migrant Education Program (MEP) specialists.

Parental involvement is an integral part of all Title I programs, including the MEP. The MEP supports parental involvement to more effectively help migrant children experience academic success. Migrant parents are critical stakeholders in the program's success. The MEP is responsible for providing parents the knowledge and skills needed to be an effective advocate for their child to ensure the continuation of their education. The Pennsylvania MEP continues to explore different venues that will aid the communication between the migrant families and local districts despite the mobility and school year interruptions that may occur. For this reason, Pennsylvania decided to consider innovative ways in which migrant families could effectively make use of the information that is provided by the MSIX and began with providing professional development training to the MEP parent liaisons.

In December 2010, a total of 15 MEP staff members who are responsible for developing parent-related activities for the state of Pennsylvania participated in a four-hour training session coordinated by the MEP education program information technology coordinator, Vaughn Murray, and the MEP statewide parent and special projects coordinator, Inés L. Vega. An introductory MSIX session was delivered and then followed by computer lab exercises on how to access and navigate the MSIX data system. As a result of this training, the following suggestions were made: (1) The Pennsylvania MEP should prepare and develop a train-the-trainer session for MEP support staff and parents,



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Quick Links

REACTS Website

<http://reactsmsix.ed.gov>

MSIX Website

<http://msix.ed.gov>

Office of Migrant Education Website

<http://www.ed.gov/oese/ome/>

How to Contribute to REACTS

Do you have an MSIX story to share?
We would love to hear from you.

Please contact us at reactshelp@ed.gov.

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MEP Parent Liaisons (continued)

making parents aware of the value of this information and how can it be shared with their local districts; (2) Once the parents become aware of MSIX, they should have access to their children's records; (3) Student information should be current (state testing, progress reports, English proficiency, etc.); therefore, it is important to upload student information on an on-going basis; (4) Local school districts should also become aware and receive training on the usage of MSIX; and (5) A request was made that migrant families be issued an MSIX identification card once eligibility has been determined.

As a follow up to this pilot workshop session, the Records Exchange Advice, Communication, and Technical Support (REACTS) Team delivered a two-day state profile and capacity assessment training session in May 2011, and identified the areas of improvement for intra-state and inter-state coordination. Further training dates are pending.

We thank Inés Vega for her contribution.

Migrant Parent Survey Results

On behalf of OME, the REACTS Team surveyed 27 migrant parents at the May 2011 National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education (NASDME) Annual Conference in New Orleans, La. The purpose of these surveys was to assess parental knowledge of MSIX and to understand how effective the MEP at the national and state levels have been in communicating the goals of the records exchange initiative and the existence of the MSIX system.

The surveys were obtained during two short outreach sessions between Monday, May 1, 2011, and Tuesday, May 2, 2011. From the 27 five-question surveys collected, 2 were answered in English and 25 in Spanish. All parents answered the survey anonymously.

Overall, the results of the survey were very positive and will influence future MSIX and REACTS work. Although they showed a lack of wide-spread knowledge about the Records Exchange Initiative (REI) and MSIX among the parent community, they also indicated a strong parental support for the REI concept and for the potential benefits of MSIX.

Here are a few of the comments from migrant parents about the REI and MSIX:

- “[I heard about MSIX] through a special meeting about the topic.”
- “I was in a meeting about MSIX in San Antonio, Texas where it was [explained] how MSIX is organized and everything was very clear. Thank you.”
- “[The best way for MSIX to help with enrollment of my child, is to] speak to the migrant parent board so they can tell MEP directors and school directors.”
- “Any help for migrant [students] is good and necessary for a better future.”
- “If we do [the Records Exchange Initiative] right, the student's records will get there before the student does.”

The Office of Migrant Education will soon make the parent survey results summary available to all migrant state directors.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Jennifer K. Dozier at (202) 205-4421 or the REACTS Support Center at (888)732-REACTS-0 or 888-732-2870.



Spotlight: MIS2000 System

The MIS2000 system was created to allow states to have the utmost flexibility in dealing with the challenges of managing data on their migrant population. MIS2000 was designed and is maintained by Management Services for Education Data (MS/EdD), based near Little Rock, Ar. While there are certainly many commonalities, each state may have unique needs. MIS2000 uses a common core architecture, but can be completely customized for each state. Currently there are 26 states using the MIS2000 system. With input from 26 states, MIS2000 has developed numerous innovative tools to collect data, such as 10 states using Tablet computer systems to collect the Certificate of Eligibility (COE) and other data, as well as scanners for collecting supporting documents. Signatures are captured directly by these devices, while various mechanisms are in place to improve the quality of data. Features also provide for PDF snapshots of the COE including signatures to be created for audit purposes. A detailed log can also be maintained to monitor the approval process of the COE.

Another key design of the MIS2000 system is that it can function in a stand-alone manner and does not require constant Internet connectivity. This allows a great deal of flexibility based on how a state uses the system. However, various web-tools are available to allow access and data entry, with a solid set of security tools. States can control their own data on a server they maintain, or MS/EdD can host the system if the state prefers. An integrated robust reporting environment allows users to have un-paralleled access to their data in a variety of formats. MIS2000 can also import data from external systems to increase the efficiency of collecting information.

Prior to MSIX, MIS2000 had created a system that allowed participating states to search a centralized database of student records. MIS2000 is able to track all of the minimum data elements and its interface is completely certified to provide the required demographic, enrollment, assessment, and course history information. The MS/EdD staff work closely with their state partners, OME, and the MSIX team to make sure data from MIS2000 states are efficiently made available in MSIX.

Another key component of MIS2000 is an easy to use interface that utilizes various design and coding techniques to speed up and simplify data entry. Once again, these are customized based on each state's needs. Enhancement and bug fix responsiveness is another strong point of the MIS2000 system. If a state finds a bug, or there is a need for an enhancement, the issue can be addressed quickly by the MS/EdD support staff and not get bogged down by an extensive approval process, or concern about impact on other states. If there is one word that describes the MIS2000 system, it would be flexibility.

For more information, please contact Jim Hardage at jhardage@msedd.com or Kevin Donn at kdonn@msedd.com or at 501-801-2500.

We thank Jim Hardage and Kevin Donn at MS/EdD for their contribution.



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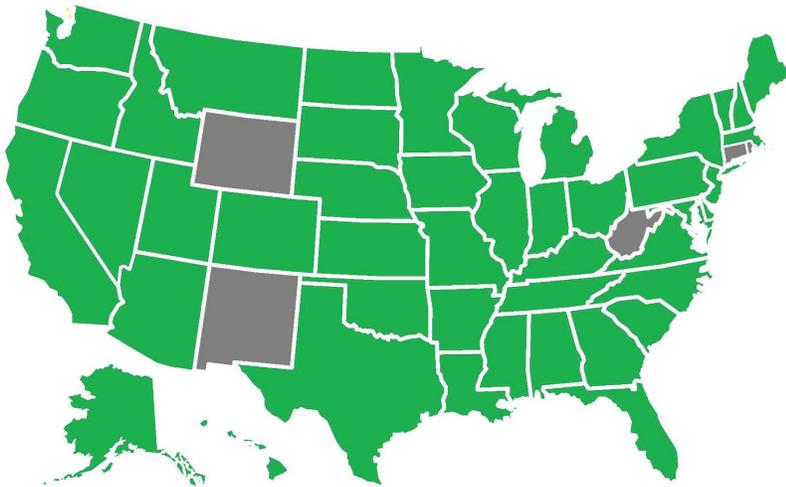
States in the Spotlight

Forty-five states are live!

Congratulations to Colorado which has begun populating MSIX with student records! With the addition of Colorado, MSIX is now making student records available for over 99 percent of children in the Migrant Education Program.

The forty-five 'live' states are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho,

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.



Future Newsletters

You are on the Office of Migrant Education distribution list to receive this newsletter on a quarterly basis.

We would love to hear your MSIX stories, challenges, and advice, and include these in future issues.

Feel free to share this issue of the REACTS newsletter with your staff and colleagues.

If you prefer not to receive our news, feel free to contact us at reactshelp@ed.gov. We will automatically remove your address from our database.

Thank you for your continued support of the Migrant Records Exchange Initiative and MSIX. We look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,
Your REACTS Team

reactshelp@ed.gov

888-REACTS-0 or
888-732-2870

<http://reactsmsix.ed.gov>

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