



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

APR 8 2011

Dear Chief State School Officer:

I want to take this opportunity to update you on the national initiative designed to improve the electronic exchange among the States of critical educational and health information for migrant children. The Migrant Student Record Exchange Initiative implements a statutory requirement found in Section 1308(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. I ask for your assistance and support in the continued success of this initiative.

As you are aware, the timely transfer of education and health records for migrant children between schools has been a longstanding challenge. Migrant children often enroll in multiple schools and school districts for varying amounts of time each year as their families migrate in search of temporary or seasonal work in agriculture or fishing. State Migrant Education Program (MEP) staff continue to find it difficult to share and consolidate student information that schools and State MEPs collect on migrant children in such a way and time as to be helpful to school personnel when the children arrive. Without timely access to the critical information contained in these records, school personnel often struggle to enroll migrant children, make appropriate grade and course placement decisions, and ensure the accrual of secondary course credits.

In response to these needs and the congressional mandate in sec. 1308(b), the U.S. Department of Education (ED) implemented the Migrant Student Record Exchange Initiative. This initiative (1) established standards for the minimum education and health data that each State must collect and maintain in its existing electronic State migrant student record system; (2) developed an "electronic exchange" that will link all States' migrant student record systems to facilitate the consolidation of migrant students' education and health information; and (3) created a web-based consolidated migrant student record that can be used by authorized school personnel to facilitate school enrollment, grade/course placement, and the accrual of secondary course credits.

At the heart of this initiative is the Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX). The MSIX does not replace existing State migrant student record systems, rather it links them in a minimally invasive manner to collect, consolidate, and make available critical education and health data. The MSIX also leverages available information provided by the States to ED's Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN) system to ease the data collection burden on States.

We ask your support in ensuring that your State provides timely, accurate, and complete data to the MSIX. States are required to submit demographic, school enrollment, assessment, and course history data to MSIX. Some States have submitted this important information in full; however many State MEP offices are finding it difficult to obtain

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The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

timely and complete assessment and course history data from the State's general student information systems in order to comply with the legislative requirement to provide this data to the MSIX. A successful national records exchange program requires that each State submit all of the required data elements to the MSIX for sharing with other States when a migrant child makes an interstate move. We encourage you to ensure that the appropriate communications occur between the MEP personnel in your State and your information technology (IT) staff to facilitate timely sharing of the critical assessment and course history information that is key to the educational continuity and success of migrant children nationwide.

My staff would be happy to provide technical assistance to your State staff, if needed, on understanding the requirements of the MSIX and the proper submission of MSIX data.

Additional information on the Migrant Records Exchange Initiative can be found on the OME website at <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/recordstransfer.html>. If you or your State Migrant Education Program staff has any questions regarding the Migrant Student Records Exchange Initiative, or would like technical assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Lisa Ramirez at 202-260-1386 or Ms. Jennifer K. Dozier at 202-205-4421.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thelma', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Ph.D.

cc: State Directors of Migrant Education