



REACTS

Records Exchange Advice, Communication, and Technical Support Newsletter

MSIX Builds Bridges for Families

While sitting in a staff meeting on Nov. 11, 2011, parent coordinator Dora Navarro from the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU) Migrant Education Program (MEP) in Pennsylvania received a phone call from a parent in the MEP. The mother was on her way to her children's school to withdraw them because they were moving to Chicago. Navarro notified the CCIU MEP data specialist, Laura Patterson, and student support specialists, Manuel Ibarra-Gomez and Pam Eppinger, who sent the notification for the three children to MSIX. Eppinger attached a message to the MSIX notification that the family stated they were moving to Chicago.

The following Monday, Eva Jimenez from the Illinois MEP called Eppinger looking for more information about the family. After a few phone calls, Eppinger was able to provide contact information for the current schools and the updated information that the family was leaving Pennsylvania on Nov. 17, as well as a current home phone number. Jimenez was then able to call the family at their Pennsylvania residence to get more information about their pending move and provide the family with MEP contact numbers for support in Chicago.

This family's transition to a new state of residence was much easier because of the connections that were made by using MSIX.

As we always say, everyone benefits when we all work together!

We would like to thank Pam Eppinger, student support specialist, and Jane Hershberger, supervisor of the Chester County, Pa. Migrant Education Program, for their contribution.

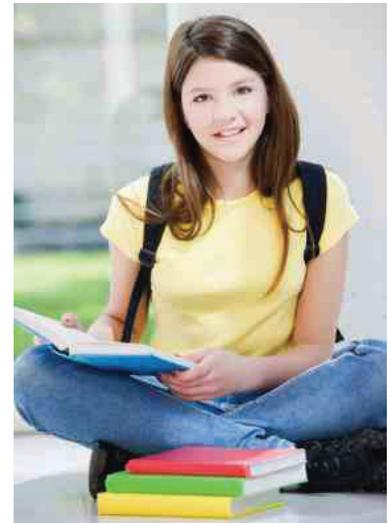


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Quick Links

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.



REACTS

First You Take the “SUGAR,” and Then Add “FLOUR”

Florida serves one of the largest migrant student populations in the U.S. Given the scope of students to be served, it was critical for Florida to implement an effective strategy for facilitating ongoing communication between school districts and the state education office, which incorporated MSIX.

Since 2010, when Florida went live with MSIX, the state education office has created innovative ways to inform its district program staff about the latest MSIX-related news and updates, and simultaneously create a forum for districts to share district-level news. In that vein, Florida has created a user group called “FLOUR,” or the Florida Leadership Outlet for User Recommendations, modeled after the Office of Migrant Education’s (OME) State User Group for Analysis and Recommendation, or “SUGAR,” whose participants include OME, several state data and user administrators, and the MSIX technical team. In the interest of being creative and sticking with the baking theme, FLOUR was created.

FLOUR comprises Florida’s state data and user administrators and district-level user administrators. It has conducted two conference calls

since its inception in August 2011, with positive feedback. The calls are conducted on a bi-monthly basis and topics discussed include technical updates to the system, ideas and concerns, and recommendations for MSIX.

Although the Florida MEP conducts bi-monthly conference calls with district coordinators to disseminate information (which includes an MSIX segment), the state office wanted to create a separate forum to provide registered MSIX users a dedicated opportunity to receive MSIX updates from state and national levels. Full implementation and use of MSIX is a priority for Florida, and this group has become a think-tank-type team of problem-solvers. Issues that affect one or more districts and the ways to address them are shared and discussed. This method encourages everyone to be owners of the implementation and operation of MSIX in Florida. FLOUR is the state’s all-purpose group for self-rising into MSIX success!

We would like to thank Jay Rembert, Florida MSIX state data administrator, and Carol Gagliano, Florida Migrant Education Program director from the Florida Department of Education, for their contribution.

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

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