



REACTS

Records Exchange Advice, Communication, and Technical Support Newsletter

MSIX Helps Pave the Way to Success

Over the last two years, North Carolina has seen a greater proportion of juniors and seniors among our high school Migrant Education Program (MEP) students than in previous years. While we can attribute this increase to a variety of factors, we believe that MSIX has made a difference for our students by removing some of the obstacles to timely and accurate enrollment that confront highly mobile students.

One example is Estela and her sister. They arrived in North Carolina from another state and did not bring any student records or report cards with them. On the first day of school, the counselor sent for the girls' records, but the sending school staff said they were swamped and that it would be at least the end of the week before they could send the records. The guidance counselor was hesitant to assign the girls to advanced classes without the appropriate information. The MEP advocate offered to show the counselor how to use MSIX and, in doing so, was able to generate unofficial transcripts. The counselor was amazed and excited as the transcripts appeared, and was able to enroll the girls in the higher-level classes they needed.

In another example, Mario left his state in the middle of the year and was half finished with geometry. The receiving school offered an integrated math course and was not going to give Mario credit for his work in geometry since the syllabi for the two courses were so different. The MEP advocate in that county located his grade to date in geometry in his sending state by using MSIX, found an online course to help him complete the subject that same semester, and helped Mario move onto more advanced math courses.

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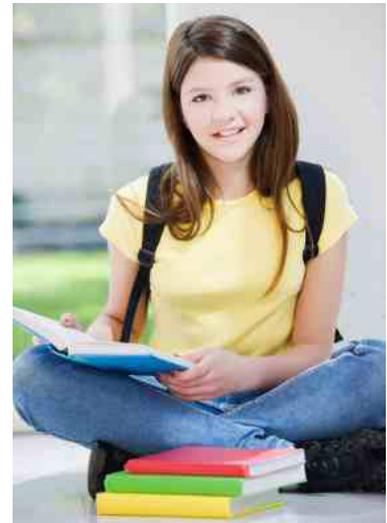


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Quick Links

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.



MSIX Helps Pave the Way to Success (continued)

The state in which Daniela last resided did not forward her transcripts to the school in which she was currently enrolled, even though there were multiple requests for them. Daniela had successfully completed ninth grade in her previous school but, because there was no record, the new school wanted to place her in the ninth grade again. Discouraged and not wanting to repeat the grade, Daniela considered dropping out of school and working in the fields to earn money instead. However, using MSIX the MEP Advocate was able to find her transcript and enrollment history from her previous school and the new school properly enrolled Daniela in the 10th grade. She is currently completing her sophomore year.

Carmen and Stephanie, an MEP advocate and a high school guidance counselor respectively, implemented a practice of communicating with students who return every year before they leave their sending state. When the student indicates that his or her family is getting ready to move, Carmen and Stephanie consult MSIX to find the current enrollment and course history information. They proactively compile a welcome packet, work on the potential schedule, and are ready and waiting when the student arrives. There is virtually no down time in enrollment and scheduling. They also make ample use of MSIX's notification features.

In all of these cases, MSIX has saved time and added resources to the toolboxes of North Carolina MEP staff and school counselors. More important, it has shown our secondary school students that we care about their time and that we are partners in their academic success.

We thank Sonja Williams, migrant education consultant for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, for this month's contribution.



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What Happens on a REACTS State Site Visit?

Since September 2010, 16 states have participated in the REACTS state work sessions and have made progress on their migrant student records exchange goals.

Site visits are an essential part of the strategic planning process that the REACTS team has designed with the Department of Education's Office of Migrant Education (OME). The team works closely with the states' Migrant Education Program (MEP) leadership to assist in current state assessments to identify issues, gaps, cause and effect relationships, and strategies to mitigate issues. The team then formulates specific goals with prioritized timelines based on what they can achieve within one year, one to three years, and three or more years.

Upon completion of the two-day strategic planning work session, state MEPs will have a clearly identified roadmap to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their student records exchange initiatives.

For more details on scheduling a site visit, who should attend, deliverables, and timelines, review this year's schedule at <http://reactsmsix.ed.gov/sitevisits.aspx>

Testimonials From Participants of Past State Site Visits

"Recently the Oregon Migrant program had the pleasure of having the REACTS team come and help us implement MSIX in our state. Their Strategic Planning Tools were very useful in helping our state measure where we were at and how to move forward. From the pre-visit conference calls, to the visit and the post evaluation conference calls, they were professional and extremely helpful. I would highly recommend a site visit by the REACTS team."

Jonathan Fernow
State MEP Coordinator
Oregon Department of Education

"The REACTS team has given valuable assistance to North Carolina Migrant Education in our strategic planning for training and implementation of the Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX). The self-assessment drove our strategic planning session with the REACTS staff, so that we never felt like we received a "cookie cutter" workshop, but training that truly attended to our needs. The REACTS team was knowledgeable and had the ability to keep a committee of ten people, all with different roles and skill sets, engaged."

Sonja Williams
Migrant Education Consultant
Program Monitoring Section
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction



MSIX and Records Exchange Initiative Resources



To access high-level records exchange resources, visit the REACTS Knowledge Center at <http://reactsmsix.ed.gov/knowledgecenter.aspx>. These resources include:

- Policies and Procedures Template Webinar
- State Profile and Self-Assessment Tool
- State Strategic Plan Webinar and Word Document



MSIX users, visit the MSIX Trainer's Corner – accessible at <http://msix.ed.gov/msix/training.html> – where you will find these key resources:

- User Access Guide
- Training Environment Guide
- Frequently Asked Questions
- User Administrator Guide
- Online trainings for state regional administrators and user administrators

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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888-REACTS-0 or
888-732-2870
<http://reactsmsix.ed.gov>

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