



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

JUL 12 2010

OFFICE OF MIGRANT EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM FOR STATE DIRECTORS OF MIGRANT EDUCATION

VIA E-Mail

Dear Colleague:

I am pleased to announce that the Department of Education intends to award approximately \$1.4M in Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) data quality grants among all eligible State educational agencies (SEAs) to help support State and local operating agency (LOA) efforts to implement the interstate electronic exchange of migrant children's records through the MSIX. We expect the grant awards will be made on or about September 1, 2010.

As you may recall, SEAs may obligate the awarded funds if the State's Interconnection Agreement (IA) and Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA) have been signed and submitted to the Department. To date, SEAs in 47 States have submitted their signed IA and ISA to the Department. Funds provided under the MSIX data quality grants will be available for obligation through September 30, 2011.

In addition, we would like to notify you that the Department no longer intends to support the development of States' interfaces to transmit the minimum data elements to the MSIX through contract funds provided to Deloitte Consulting. Historically, the costs to develop these interfaces were negotiated by Deloitte Consulting and paid directly to the State's designated software development contractor. States that used their internal State staff to develop their interfaces to MSIX were not eligible to receive these funds and therefore did not benefit from this additional financial resource. States are expected to use their MSIX data quality grant funds or other MEP funds to support these costs in the future. We encourage States to consider these costs as you begin to plan how you will spend your 2010 MSIX data quality grant.

Please recall, as stated in the July 23, 2008 *Federal Register* notice, that this grant program (73 FR 42793-95), requires that, "[I]n consultation with the LOAs and the State's parent advisory council, each SEA will determine how these funds will be used in the State. SEAs must use these funds only to help pay for additional costs that their agencies and the LOAs in their States may assume for various activities related to the transfer of the MDEs [minimum data elements] to and through MSIX."

As you begin to plan how these grant funds can be used, consider that there are a wide variety of activities that can be supported with MSIX data quality grant funds. Examples of permissible activities include:

- a. Enhancements to the State's migrant or State student database to ensure the inclusion of the MDEs in accordance with MSIX data specifications;
- b. Staffing or information technology (IT) services needed for the collection, data entry, and maintenance of the MDEs or the connectivity to MSIX;
- c. Development of manuals, procedures, pamphlets, or other materials that support the implementation of the State's records exchange program;
- d. Support for activities directly related to staff training on the use of MSIX, including staff attendance and travel to MSIX meetings and workshops;
- e. Travel costs, including logistical support, to permit state, regional or district-level staff or working groups in order to discuss the intrastate processes that are required to fully collect or utilize MSIX information in the State;
- f. Travel costs by such staff or working groups, including logistical support, to another State from or to which your State's migrant children move in order to discuss common records exchange issues and ways to facilitate a child's enrollment, placement, or accrual of credits with the MDE that will be received from MSIX;

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- g. Travel costs for such staff or working groups, including logistical support, to a State that does not share migrant children with your State in order, where necessary, to discuss best practices in the use of migrant data via MSIX or to gain necessary knowledge or expertise regarding exemplary practices in collecting and transmitting migrant data to and from MSIX;
- h. Studies to analyze methods to improve or automate the collection of MDEs from other State-wide data sources;
- i. Purchase of technologies that will streamline the transmission or improve the quality of the MDEs;
- j. Hiring of additional staff to assist in improving the quality of the MDEs in the state's migrant child database (e.g. verifying and inputting NCES IDs, updating missing data elements, performing quality checks on existing data, etc.);
- k. Hiring of additional technical staff or increase funding for existing technical contractors to create logic programs and reports that identify data anomalies in the State's migrant child database; and
- l. Development of educational materials for (or conduct meetings with) migrant parents and/or migrant recruiters to inform them of the purposes of MSIX and the importance of accurately reflecting data on the certificate of eligibility (COE) and how that data is relevant to the MSIX MDE.

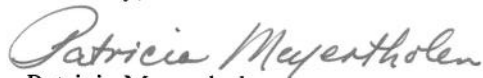
The activities listed above are not meant to be exhaustive; rather, we offer these examples simply to give you a broader perspective on the types of activities that reflect permissible grant activities.

Please note that consistent with requirements in section 76.707 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), if your agency wishes to issue a contract for personal services to be performed by individuals outside your agency, the contract must be awarded by September 30, 2011. However the period of performance for the contract may begin after September 30, 2011.

Finally, please be aware that unspent grant funds are returned to the U.S. Treasury and as such are not available to support the goals of the migrant program. We encourage you to plan the use of your MSIX data quality grant funds carefully to ensure that migrant children benefit from these funds as Congress intended.

If you have any questions regarding permissible uses of MSIX data quality grant funds, please contact Ms. Jennifer K. Dozier at (202) 205-4421.

Sincerely,



Patricia Meyertholen
Group 1 Leader, Office of Migrant Education
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Attachment