Appendix XIII: Records Exchange

Section 1304(b)(3) of the ESEA, as amended, like provisions of prior ESEA statutes, requires each SEA that receives MEP funds to promote interstate and intrastate coordination of services for migratory children, and provide for educational continuity through the timely transfer of pertinent school records, including information on health, when children move from one school to another, whether or not such move occurs during the regular school year.

History of Records Exchange

ED originally supported a system called the Migrant Student Record Transfer System (MSRTS) built
in 1969 and operated by the Arkansas Department of Education in Little Rock, Arkansas. MSRTS provided the capability for state and local MEP personnel to enter student academic, health, and assessment records. MSRTS was centrally-hosted on a mainframe and states could transfer records among states. Forty-nine states used MSRTS and this central repository held data on over 600,000 students.

In 1994, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that MSRTS was slow, incomplete, and used infrequently. Because of the inefficiencies described in the GAO report, MSRTS was terminated in June of 1995.

Once MSRTS was terminated, states began developing their own systems to collect and maintain migratory student data. Private and non-profit vendors developed and provided support for the three major migratory student record systems.

State MEP Systems Descriptions

The following sections provide additional information and descriptions of some of the current
MEP information systems.

*MIS2000.* Within each state that uses it, MIS2000 is implemented as a hierarchical (two-tiered) distributed database. The state-level MIS2000 system includes one master database and one or more regional databases. The regional databases upload regional-level data to the master database on a regular schedule. The master database reconciles the data it receives from the regional level and then pushes the reconciled data back down to the regional-level databases. The master database contains a complete set of data for the entire state.

*New Generation System (NGS).* NGS is a migratory student records management system using a centralized database located in Austin, Texas. Several states including Texas use NGS and its centralized database as their migratory student records management system. The NGS user interface is web-based.

*COEstar.* COEstar, a suite of software that allows individual systems to be customized by computer, was developed over 20 years ago by the TROMIK Technology Corporation of North Little Rock, Arkansas.

*Washington Migrant Student Information System (MSIS).* MSIS is a centralized migratory student records management database. The user interface is web-based. MSIS also provides access to
NGS via a button on the user interface. In the MSIS configuration, users access a single centralized database to manage migratory student records. MSIS also currently stores data for Montana and is capable of supporting other states into its centralized database.

*Oregon Migrant Student Information System (OMSIS).* OMSIS is a centralized database that provides a user-friendly statewide web-based interface that allows accessibility from any workstation that has access to the Internet, a valid user identification, and password. OMSIS is currently used in Oregon and accessed by Washington, California, and other special interest programs.

Migrant Records Exchange Initiative

In order to facilitate the goal of facilitating the transfer of education records between states and LOAs in those states to which migratory children move section 1308 (b)(1) of the ESEA, as amended, requires the Secretary to “assist States in the electronic transfer of student records and in determining the number of migratory children in each State”. Furthermore, Section 1308(b)(2) requires the Secretary, in consultation with the states to “ensure the linkage of migrant student record systems for the purpose of electronically exchanging, among the States, health and educational information regarding all migratory students.”

Established and administered by ED contract, the Migrant Student Records Exchange (MSIX) (<https://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/recordstransfer.html>) is the technology that states use to share educational and health information on migratory children who travel from state to state and who, as a result, have student records in multiple states’ information systems. The MSIX works in concert with the existing migratory student information systems that states currently use to manage their migratory student data to fulfill its mission to facilitate the appropriate enrollment, placement, and accrual of credits for migratory children nationwide.

The MSIX (<https://msix.ed.gov>) is a web-based consolidated database of minimum data elements that is populated from the existing state information systems. The state migratory student information systems remain the authoritative sources of the data for their state’s migratory children.