

(703) 536-2310
Fax (703) 536-3225

Education TURNKEY Electronic Distribution, Inc.

256 North Washington Street
Falls Church, Virginia 22046-4549

MEMORANDUM

August 22, 2003

:

TechMIS Subscribers

FROM: Charles Blaschke

SUBJECT: Special Reports on USED Final District Title I Allocations, Washington Update
Items and State Profile Updates

Included in this TechMIS issue are Special Report updates on two lists of preliminary USED Title I allocations to districts sent in the form of e-mails in May to SEAs. The final USED allocations, which still have to be adjusted by SEAs, corrects errors in about 14 states in the May e-mail to SEAs. Overall, the changes do not have any major impacts except in 4 or 5 districts. The updated list of districts receiving increases of at least \$500,000 this school year includes many with leftover Title I funds from last school year, which in most cases have to be spent by September 30. The list with districts receiving a 30 percent or greater increase next year should be targeted for potential sales beginning in mid-October/November when, in many cases, they will receive the unexpected increases.

The Washington Update includes a number of items on the implementation of NCLB and Head Start/preschool, including:

- USED peer review and state approval process contributes to uneven implementation of NCLB provisions across the states;
- New Center for Education Policy report on trends and impact of state exit exams could provide clues on how states, and possibly USED, will cope with the major problems of implementing NCLB assessment and related provisions;
- New GAO report confirms that most Title II A Teacher Quality funds, totaling almost \$2.9 billion, have been allocated by districts for retention and recruitment rather than for

staff development, which is less than the total amount of Title I funds allocated for staff development;

- USED posts on its website final district-by-district allocations of FY 2003 Title I funding along with maximum earmarks for transportation and supplemental education services and district Title I, per-eligible-Title I-student allocations;
- Final USED Title I district allocations confirm that many states and districts are definite winners but substantial numbers are receiving significantly less Title I funds for next year;
- The battle over the future of Head Start programs is expected to peak in September as bipartisanship fades; in any case, spending on instructional materials to develop numeracy and literacy skills will increase;
- State funding for preschool programs is being reduced in many states for school year 2003-2004 as state revenue shortfalls continue;
- A recently-appointed early learning literacy panel is analyzing more than 200 published research studies to attempt to find the best programs for interventions for the development of literacy skills and abilities;
- The preliminary design of the National Evaluation of Technology Use and its Effectiveness mandated by Congress, will focus narrowly on reading and math improvement; software publishers who are invited to participate should consider the risks along with possible benefits;
- Congress is likely to pass a new annual \$250 million initiative to improve wireless infrastructure in minority colleges and universities as a “unfunded” mandate imposed upon the Cabinet Departments, who openly oppose it; and
- NCTET to resurrect monthly technology-related policy sessions which could provide opportunities for many TechMIS subscribers to share views on technology-related issues.

The State Profile Updates address state funding and the impact of state revenue shortfalls, highlights of some of the “USED approved” approaches being taken by states to implement NCLB, and the estimated number of schools failing AYP and/or being identified for improvement this coming school year. The education press/media, in many cases, has been rather irresponsible in its reporting of schools that have been failing or identified for improvement. In states with dual accountability reporting systems, such as Florida, the numbers have been confusing and misleading. We are working currently with MCH in conducting surveys with SEAs to determine: (a) which schools that have been identified for improvement had been failing for two consecutive years and hence, have to earmark at least 15 percent for the Title I budget from the Title I reserve for staff development; and (b) which schools identified for improvement for the second year (failing three consecutive years), are required to provide supplemental education services. Even though the state list may be available

in virtually all states, some districts have taken advantage of a hastily created appeals processes, which means that once again the “list” will continue to undergo changes.

If you have any questions please contact Charles Blaschke directly.