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MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 22, 2004
TO: TechMIS Subscribers
FROM: Charles Blaschke
SUBJ: TechMIS Reports - January-March 2005

Over this holiday season, as winter sets in, the Administration's policymaking and Congressional activity, like the traffic, has slowed down to a snail's pace. Below the surface, however, closed sessions among White House staff, the Office of Management and Budget, and USED are formulating initiatives alluded to by the President during the campaign and Education Secretary designee, Margaret Spellings, is quietly assembling her team.

Over the next 2-3 months, TechMIS e-mails will come to you in the form of Special Alerts or Special Reports on specific policies, events, and/or budgetary news which could affect your group directly. Below are some of the topics which are likely to be addressed during this timeframe:

- The President's proposed FY 2006 budget which will likely include some rescissions, major reallocation of funds from existing programs to new programs, and an extremely tight overall budget.
- Technical amendments to NCLB or Non-Regulatory Guidance to "fix" some of the clearly unintended consequences of the Law, several of which are related to supplemental education services/parent transportation choice, and issues related to special education and English language learner subgroup populations.
- The President's middle school and high school initiative, including accountability and sanctions applying to all high schools (not just Title I schools), additional testing in grades 9-12, and individual performance plans for struggling, striving eighth grade readers.

These and other events are not likely to occur before formal Senate approval of Margaret Spellings as Secretary of Education. After that, quick movement is expected on many fronts.

Have a wonderful holiday and best wishes for a prosperous New Year.