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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 7, 2005
TO: TechMIS Subscribers
FROM: Charles Blaschke
SUBJ: Expanded Opportunities for Partnerships Under USED SES Guidance and State Profile Updates

Within the last three weeks, two TechMIS Special Reports were sent out because of their timeliness on Federal funding (June 14, 2005) and draft IDEA regulations (June 30, 2005). Enclosed in this TechMIS mailing is a special analysis of the new USED guidance on supplemental educational services which was published in the Federal Register on June 13. Our analysis of the new SES guidance and other directly-related USED guidance strongly suggests that opportunities for partnering with districts which provide their own SES programs will increase, in more than 25 states. These states include the ten Ed-Flex states where related USED regulations can be waived to allow districts identified for improvement to continue providing SES and in additional states whose recently-approved amendments will reduce the number of districts identified for improvement. One should not assume that all districts in these states are aware of the flexibility which they now could have!

The Washington Update items include:

- Trends in the types of state-requested amendments being approved by USED and the implications for many TechMIS subscribers;
- New Illinois Board of Education policies on SES conflict with new USED guidance, the resolution of which could not only establish precedent but also the nature of the SES “movement”;

- An analysis of the recent Standard and Poor's Study of Urban School Districts which addresses myths (e.g., urban districts spend more than other districts while student performance is not improving); questionable treatment of data attempts to dispel myths.

Included in this TechMIS issue are extensive State Profile Updates for most states. Much of the information on state technology initiatives, funding levels, and directly-related matters was gleaned from the most recent Education Week Technology Counts report and through discussions with state technology officials during the recent meeting of the State Education Technology Directors Association (SETDA) during NECC, June 27-30. Interviews were also conducted with state officials responsible for Title I, Special Education, and Reading First programs regarding their response to the recently-published IDEA draft regulations and USED SES Non-Regulatory Guidance. Where Update items are reported in local newspapers, attempts to corroborate such information were made, especially in states such as Texas and Florida, where some city newspapers have been inaccurate in the past.

If anyone has any questions please contact me directly.

P.S. Also enclosed is a Press Release describing the availability of the new TURNKEY Special Education Marketing and Sales Guide which is available to TechMIS subscribers at a discount price of \$395.