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State Superintendent of Schools

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Notes from LEA Telephone Conference Call

Date: October 21, 2009, Time: 10:00 a.m.

MSDE Participants: Dr. Mary Cross, Ms. Kristi Peters, Ms. Tierra Lisbon

LEA Participants: Ms. Keshawn Golson, Dr. Gwendolyn Smith

- I. Update on 2009-2010 Providers
 - a. Proposals Received -- 41
 - b. Number of New Providers Approved -- 17
 - c. Number of Returning Providers Approved -- 5 of 6
 - d. Total Number of Providers in the State for 2009-2010 School Year -- 45

- II. For Contract Preparations
 - a. Cost proposals are online on the SES webpage. For Digital Network Group, Educate Online, and Princeton Review, check for their “Best and Final Offers” for their allowed charges. Also check the Amendments page for Providers when there are discrepancies between the original proposal and any element of the Providers information for contracts. **LETTERS WILL BE SENT TO PROVIDERS TO ACCOMPANY THE E-MAILS THAT I HAVE SENT LEAs TO EXPEDITE THEIR CONTRACTING PROCESS. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT MSDE if there are any questions.**
 - b. While Providers generally inform MSDE when they do not plan to serve during a school year, some do not. Mary Cross thanked LEAs for informing MSDE when they receive news that a Provider will not be serving. Providers that do not serve for two consecutive years are removed from the State-approved list and, as a courtesy, MSDE will remind them of this provision in the RFQ if we know they are not planning to serve for a second consecutive year.

- III. LEA Data for Posting on the MSDE Web Site
 - a. Data required are a) eligible students and b) number served, from the 2007-08 school year.
 - b. Also, to be posted are current allocation for SES and the per pupil allocation.
 - c. The procedures for posting a) data received at MSDE, b) data is verified by Kristi Peters and Mary Cross, and c) data will be posted after verification.

- IV. Contract Information Needed

Please send a blank copy of your county’s contract when it has been finalized -- e-mail it, if possible, to Mary Cross. We have received Prince George’s County’s contract.

- V. MSDE Monitoring
 - a. When available, MSDE will need the starting dates, days of the week, times, and schools for each Provider will be offering SES so Geri Taylor Lawrence can begin to arrange MSDE site visits.

- b. The Monitoring Instrument was e-mailed to LEAs yesterday. Providers will be e-mailed this instrument today. There are no changes in the information to be asked, only format changes to make the instrument easier for monitors to use. LEAs should not change the basic form. If LEAs have additional compliance questions they want to ask, their questions should be put on pages that are added to the back of the instrument.

VI. SES Data Collection Requirements

- a. Kristi Peters discussed data collection and the reasons MSDE needs data. The kind of questions asked of LEAs and the uses of the data were discussed.
- b. The NCLB law requires States to determine every two years which Providers will be removed from the State's approved list, based on the Provider's effectiveness in raising their students' achievement. MSDE does internal evaluations that incorporate data from site visits, Provider and LEA reports and our external evaluations. Also, the State will remove Providers for certain infractions, especially those that put at risk the health and safety of the children, parents, staff, or general public.
- c. The MSDE external evaluation which is conducted each year by the University of Memphis. It consists of online surveys for LEA staff, Principals, Teachers, Providers, and hard copies to parents of SES students. **In the last two years, we have had a record number of responses, and I thank your districts for helping us on that. Most Providers, with some nudging, have given us more responses. We still have work to do on getting more teacher and parent responses. We will let you know how we plan to attack these problems once the evaluators come back to us with their proposals.**
- d. Also, the external evaluators look at MSA data to determine which Providers are effective in raising student achievement and which are not. The methodologies used for these analyses have been rigorous, so rigorous that many Providers' data have not met the criteria for being included in the analyses. That, in turn means some Providers have not been subjected to the analyses each year. Not having data on each Provider has meant that MSDE could not make objective determinations for removing Providers that are fair to all Providers.
- e. The U.S. Department of Education regulations require that the State publish its techniques, standards, methods for making Provider approval and removal determinations, as well as for monitoring Providers.

VII. Discussion of LEA Issues

- a. The meeting was then turned over to LEAs for issues they wanted to discuss. Issues were raised concerning contracting and work plan development. Some of the issues related to contracting had been discussed before and the resolutions were reiterated. The federal policy regarding LEA responsibility for work plan development was discussed.
- b. It was agreed to have the beginning of the year LEA Coordinator's Meeting during the second week in November of 2009. One focus will be on LEAs sharing with each other best and promising practices in implementing SES in their districts. Potential topics for sharing include a) work plan development and approval, b) attendance monitoring, and c) policies for Providers that do not serve in schools or homes.