



Ira Schwartz, Associate Commissioner
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October 27, 2017

Ms. Patricia Meyertholen
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Migrant Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, 3E-315
Washington, DC 20202-6135

Dear Ms. Meyertholen:

The New York State Education Department (NYSED or “the Department”) requests a Tydings Waiver per Section 421(b) of the General Education Provision Act, 20 U.S.C. 1225(b) to extend the end date for liquidation and obligation of the State’s FY15 Migrant Student Information Exchange (MSIX) data quality program to September 30, 2018.

The Department has amended the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 016-045 with the State University of New York at Oneonta (SUNY Oneonta) to include language for the MSIX funding.

A notification of this proposed liquidation and obligation extension request and a solicitation of public comment was posted to the Department’s Website from October 30 to November 3, 2017. In addition, the Senior Deputy Commissioner for Policy included in her weekly email of November 27, 2017 a notification of the public comment period to all superintendents and principals. The Department received a total of X comments on the extension request, which are enclosed with this letter.

SUNY Oneonta’s work plan for MOU 016-045 requires SUNY Oneonta to complete the following activities in relation to the MSIX national records transfer system:

- 1) Attend and participate in four quarterly New York State Migrant Education Consortium meetings conducted annually to discuss issues pertaining to and impacting the education of the migrant-eligible children and their families in the State. These include:
 - updates on the identification and recruitment process through the MSIX data system;
 - intrastate processes that are required to fully collect or utilize MISIX information.
- 2) Conduct a minimum of two statewide Identification and Recruitment trainings and two statewide MSIX trainings annually on different topics relating to MSIX for Migrant Educators and Recruiters. These include:

- best practices in the use of migrant data via MSIX to support instructional programming and support services;
 - exemplary practices in collecting and transmitting migrant data to and from MSIX.
- 3) Attend conferences, including the ID&R Forum and the National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education (NASDME) Conference, to learn and discuss best practices in the collection and use of migrant data;
 - 4) Purchase equipment (e.g., tablet and laptop computers) to streamline the collection and transmission of the Minimum Data Elements (MDEs);
 - 5) Develop manuals, procedures, pamphlets, and other materials that support the implementation of the State's record exchange program; and
 - 6) Hire staff and obtain information technology services needed for the collection, data entry, and maintenance of the MDEs and the connectivity to MSIX, as well as the implementation of electronic Certificates of Eligibility (COEs).

The waiving of such requirements will advance student academic achievement by making data and data use part of an ongoing cycle of collecting multiple data sources, interpreting data to formulate hypotheses about strategies to raise student achievement, and implementing appropriate instructional programs and support services to improve student achievement. The New York State Migrant Education Program (NYS-MEP) operates on the belief that to help all migrant students achieve, Migrant Educators need to systematically and routinely use data to guide the design and implementation of such instructional programs and support services to best meet students' needs. Such data analysis and use of the consolidated migrant student record will also serve to facilitate a child's enrollment, placement, or accrual of credits with the MDEs received from MSIX.

The NYS-MEP believes in the importance of data accuracy and quality in data-driven decision making. The methods the Department will use to monitor and regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of the waiver include the following strategies:

- Monthly newsletter on best practices;
- Shadowing veteran Data Specialists;
- Two statewide mandatory trainings;
- Statewide Data Specialist manual;
- Regular data accuracy and quality control through data reconciliation;
- Attendance at national meetings (e.g., "Sugar"); and
- Tracking activity on MSIX through MIS2000.

In addition, the Department runs an MSIX data completeness report each year where we evaluate the number of MDEs entered into MIS2000 following the nationally established timelines and due dates. If there are data gaps or discrepancies, these will be addressed with the respective regional Migrant Education Tutorial and Support Services (METS) program center. If we discover issues with the data fields across the State, we use such information to provide

additional training and technical assistance to establish common understanding and better data entry and analysis.

The schools and school districts in the State will continue to report student achievement data, immunization records, credit accrual, and course history to the Department's Office of Information and Report Services (IRS) four times a year. This information, especially the MDEs, will be entered into MIS2000 for upload to MSIX, thereby ensuring that schools and school districts will continue to assist the same populations served by the program for which the waiver is requested.

The Department, through the regional METS and the Migrant Technical Assistance Support Center (M-TASC), conduct both statewide and local Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings with migrant parents and guardians to inform them of the purposes of MSIX and the importance of accurately reflecting data on the COEs and how that data is relevant to the MDEs in MSIX. The input of parents and guardians serve to inform the implementation of MSIX and its use for effective data-driven decision making. Furthermore, the Department is providing notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment by interested Local Education Agencies (LEAs) on the proposed Tydings Waiver.

This waiver will allow SUNY Oneonta to perform these activities and will allow New York State Department to fund a portion of these activities with the MSIX State Data Quality Grant.

The following information may be required to implement the extension:

CFDA #:	84.144G
Award #:	S144G150080
Current Budget Period:	07/01/2015 – 09/30/2017
Award Amount:	\$89,740
Amount Requested for Extension:	\$89,740

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Tom Walters at (518) 473-0205.

Sincerely,

Ira Schwartz
Associate Commissioner

Enclosure

c: A. Klippel
T. Walters
J. Harmon
K. Chee