

To: Carol Rasco
From: Patrick Lester
Date: 8-11-94
Re: Migrant Student Record Transfer System (MSRTS)

I have spoken about this issue with Jim Hardage, Director of the MSRTS program in Little Rock, and to Frank Corrigan, head of the Migrant Education Program in the Department of Education. As you may recall, the Department is planning to phase out the Migrant Student Record Transfer System (MSRTS) next year.

This issue dates back to the Spring of 1993, when the Department, at the request of House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bill Ford (D-MI) and ranking minority member Rep. Bill Goodling (R-PA), decided not to recompute the program grant, as was originally planned. The decision was made instead to wait for the outcome of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which authorizes the program. At this time, both the House and Senate have passed ESEA bills. Conferees will be meeting over the next several weeks to iron out differences, with a final bill expected to be passed this Fall.

At present, neither the House nor the Senate bills mandates the continuation of MSRTS, though the Senate bill would allow the U.S. Department of Education to continue the program until 1/1/96 - six months beyond the date in the current law. It appears that Congress, believing a more efficient and less costly way to transfer migrant student records can be found, no longer intends to support a centralized database like MSRTS. The Department of Education estimates the total annual Federal, state and local cost of the program at between \$16 and \$25 million, out of a total \$300 million allocated under the Migrant Education Program (MEP). Frank Corrigan has said the money could be put to better use, like funding increased migrant identification, migrant health efforts, tutoring, after-school activities, etc.

One possible replacement being considered for State and local data systems is a system based on the SPEEDE/EXPRESS standards for records for data transfer. I have been told that the Department of Education plans to issue a Federal Register notice soliciting comments on the issue, possibly within the next few months.

Finally, on a political note, the migrant education community seems either to be split (according to Corrigan) or mostly against the Department (according to Hardage) on this issue. Either way, eliminating this program is bound to make a bunch of people mad, and not just in Little Rock.

At this point, however, there is little we can do absent a rapid change of heart by Congress. Since neither the House nor Senate ESEA bill extends the program, a separate bill would probably

have to be introduced to do so. Hardage has said that he would be willing to do whatever it takes, but that various sympathetic Congresspeople are unlikely to act on the program's behalf without the Administration's blessings.

APR 1 1 1994

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be willing to do whatever it takes, but that various sympathetic Congresspeople are unlikely to act on the program's behalf without the Administration's blessings.

-- 7/29/94 letter from James Boardman - He appreciated note you sent. Some of his favorite professional memories have resulted from working with you and President.

He is more frustrated than ever with U.S. Office of Education. In 25 years of working with various individuals at USOE, he has never had to deal with such arrogance and apparent lack of concern for children. He is now Asst. Director at Migrant Student Record Transfer System. He would appreciate anything you could do to help their efforts to improve and continue MSRTS. If you are unable to assist, he asks that you not forward letter to anyone at Office of Education. Doing so would only add stress to an already strained relationship.

See
 Direct to Bruce Peris + Bruce Gaestner for review/response
+ follow up per HLLC

*Personal
Laudman*

First Lady
Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Hillary:

I appreciate the note you sent me the other day. Some of my favorite professional memories have resulted from working with you and President Clinton. However, I am more frustrated than I have ever been with the U.S. Office of Education. I have worked directly with various individuals at the U.S.O.E. for almost 25 years and have never had to deal with such arrogance or apparent lack of concern for children.

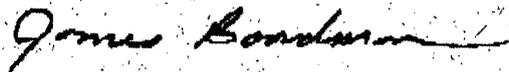
I moved to the Migrant Student Record Transfer System (MSRTS) as Assistant Director to Jim Hardage in January of 1983. Since that time, we have managed to significantly improve the system in spite of the resistance of the Office of Migrant Education. While additional changes are still needed, the system should not be destroyed.

Many organizations and individuals have come to the defense of the MSRTS in the last few months including the Hispanic community, parents of migrant children, chief state school officers and migrant program staff. Evidently, this support is either being filtered or ignored by those in decision making positions. I tried, without success, to get this message to President Clinton.

I want you to know that I believe improving and continuing the MSRTS is the right thing to do. Hopefully, you would have enough confidence in the people here in Arkansas to believe that we could do the job. I would appreciate anything you could do to help. If for some reason you are unable to assist, I ask only that you not forward this letter to anyone at the Office of Education. I am already familiar with their viewpoint and doing so would only add stress to an already strained relationship.

Thank You for what you have already done for me. If I can ever do anything in return, just let me know.

Sincerely,



James Boardman

P6(b)(6)

I would really like to
talk to you about this
anytime/anyplace!

AUG 5 1994

November 4, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR ROSALYN MILLER

THROUGH: BILL GALSTON

FROM: KIM ROSS *KR*

SUBJECT: Migrant Student Records Transfer System (MSRTS)

Bayla White, Director of Migrant Education at the Department of Education, provided the following information on MSRTS.

MSRTS is actually a contract with Arkansas, not a federal program. This contract is scheduled to end June 30, 1995. The new law contained in The Elementary & Secondary Education Act (signed into law on October 20, 1994) states that records should be transferred but does not mandate any particular method. The U.S. Department of Education is currently negotiating an orderly phase down of MSRTS.

Mr. Howard Essl in the Migrant Education Office at the U.S. Department of Education is handling the procedures for phasing down MSRTS. Ms. Connie Nowell should feel free to contact him at 202-260-1401 with any questions.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

*Forwarded this
info. to Connie Nowell
on 11/7/94.
ram*

260-1164
Bayla White w/
Migrant Ed

TO: Bill Galston
FROM: Rosalyn Miller *Revised*
SUBJECT: Migrant Student Rights Transfer System (MSRTS)

Carol asked that I obtain guidance from you about the phone conversation I had with Connie Nowell in Arkansas on this issue.

Connie wonders what the latest is on this issue (although I haven't told this to Connie, Carol thought it had gone to ESEA and that the chances were good that this program would be phased out.) Did the bill pass? Have we signed it?

Connie also asked for the name of someone with whom she could learn about customary procedures when a federal program is phased out (i.e. severance pay, pay for training, etc.)

Thanks.

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

Roz

YOU WERE CALLED BY--

YOU WERE VISITED BY--

Connie Nowell

OF (Organization)

P6/(b)(6)

fax

PLEASE PHONE

FTS

AUTOVON

P6/(b)(6)

phone

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Re: MSRTS

*ESEA
that system
would be
shut out*

*- Did bill passed?
- How we proceed?*

RECEIVED BY

R -

DATE

10/31

TIME

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Qual. Mgmt. team

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sequence
pay for training

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