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JOHN E. DEASY, Ph.D.
 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

September 1, 2014

Dr. David Rostetter
 Office of the Independent Monitor
 Modified Consent Decree
 333 South Beaudry Avenue, 18th Floor
 Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Dr. Rostetter:

The following is being provided following discussions with you on August 27, 2014, in order to provide a written update on the process of implementing MiSiS usage in District-authorized charter schools.

MiSiS and Independent Charters

The District acknowledges that per the terms of the MCD, all District-authorized schools including charter schools (dependent and independent) must use MiSiS and that the District's approved Plan for MiSiS development and implementation encompasses this requirement. Throughout the spring and summer, the District has been working closely and diligently with individual charter schools and CCSA representatives on a process to satisfy this requirement. However, issues have arisen in this regard and the District acknowledges that its communication to you and Plaintiffs' Counsel should have been provided earlier and in a much more comprehensive manner than it was provided. The primary goal remains providing a common, world-class integrated student information system that serves the needs of all District students and all schools.

Progress Update

As the initial step towards integrating the 213 independent charter schools into MiSiS, the District developed a data upload process to enable baseline data for the 2014/2015 school year to be uploaded and integrated into the MiSiS databases. As of August 22, 2014, it is confirmed that 158 of 213 independent charter schools have submitted data files for review by the MiSiS team to upload student, staff, and course information into MiSiS. *The MiSiS team is in the process of validating these files in order to either upload them or notify the charter schools about necessary corrections.* Due to challenges with upload verifications, particularly due to resource constraints, at least 29 additional schools have tried to upload data files that are not yet confirmed. Thus at this time, the District was not able to meet the 8/31 deadline to complete validation of the baseline data uploaded by August 31.

In order to continue moving toward the integration of all charter schools into MiSiS, the following action items need to be completed first:

- All data files need to be received from all independent charter schools;
- All data files need to be validated and uploaded by the MiSiS team; and
- All critical bugs and/or necessary enhancements in MiSiS (for example, enabling proper CALPADS reporting) related to charter school functionality must be addressed.

District staff continues to work with charter schools to accomplish these key steps. Once all three of the above items are completed, we will be able to address the ongoing usage of MiSiS by charter schools, including the execution of any implications of non-usage. Keeping in mind our goal of how to best serve all students by ensuring all schools utilize MiSiS, the District will continue maintaining a thoughtful and thorough process moving forward. Key District staff will be meeting with CCSA and independent charter school leaders in the coming weeks to discuss the existing bugs, needed enhancements, and other impacts of long-term usage.

Long-Term MiSiS Usage

Over the course of the last year, many of the independent charter schools have shared that they have invested substantial time and resources into their existing student information systems during the period when ISIS (and now MiSiS) was being developed, resulting in many very specific and situational modifications to even the most basic functions of such a system. Some charter schools have expressed their need for their own systems due to requirements in CALPADS reporting, school administration, school operations, parent communication, and other functions that are not supported in the modules currently offered by MiSiS. Thus, many charter schools have indicated that there are challenges in having them transition to use MiSiS as the *sole* system of record. Despite these indications, the District has continually made it clear to charter schools that MiSiS usage is an absolute requirement.

The following are the current options the District is exploring to address this situation and would like to discuss each with you further:

1. Continue to focus on providing continued assistance to have all independent charter schools use MiSiS as their primary (and sole) system of record. As of now, about 25 independent charter schools are in this category.
 - a. Some Key Implications:
 - i. Dedicate appropriate resources to address bugs in the system and to provide technical support for charter schools.
 - ii. Assess, as needed, key enhancements that charter schools may request for functionality and/or to execute current reports they produce from their current systems. Such could facilitate ease of transition for all charter schools to be on MiSiS and help address gaps in functionality.
 - iii. Cost and time factors are still to be determined, but will be extensive (most likely cost prohibitive) to customize MiSiS for 213 independent schools.

2. Create a nightly refresh of data into MiSiS for charter school student information systems using the data file upload process already established.
 - a. Some Key Implications:
 - i. Creating this refresh will allow charter data to be reflected in the system, but there will be a one day lag in information.
 - ii. Current data file upload process requires time and resources from both the District and charter schools that are too extensive for a daily refresh. Technical discussions will have to occur between MiSiS staff and charter school IT staff to determine requirements for a nightly refresh.
 - iii. Additional cost and time factors to be determined.
3. Require charters to abandon their existing systems and direct data entry of all student, staff and course information into MiSiS.
 - a. Some Key Implications:
 - i. A process to revoke charter schools who do not use the system exclusively may cause the unintended consequence of not having access to student data for high-performing schools in the District's geographic boundary, especially as there are regular transitions between District-operated and charter schools.

The District would like to discuss these options with you at your earliest convenience to obtain any thoughts you may have and will subsequently provide a formal written request to discuss this issue with you and the Plaintiffs' Counsel through the standard protocols.

Sincerely,

John E. Deasy, Ph.D.
Superintendent of schools

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