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MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Business Managers
FROM: Daniel M. French, Ed.D., Secretary of Education
SUBJECT: SLDS Update and Final Data Processing Timeline
DATE: March 14, 2019

This memo outlines the activities and outcomes you should expect in the coming weeks and months as Vermont's State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) process continues. Please review the timeline carefully. Your continued partnership will be critical in addressing any necessary corrections to your previously certified data in order to avoid errors that could affect your federal funding.

The SLDS is designed to streamline required education data collection and reporting at the local and statewide levels. This is accomplished through the use of consistent vertical reporting methods and infrastructural specifications across the state. Challenges in implementing the SLDS both at the Agency of Education and Supervisory District / Union level and SD/SUs' learning curve with the new platform have led to a delay in collecting and certifying required data collections.

Vermont's Annual Snapshot, required as part of our ESSA state plan, is heavily dependent on the data SD/SUs submit via the SLDS. Accordingly, our launch of the Snapshot has also been delayed.

1. As of Monday, March 18, AOE staff will move forward with a data quality screening and verification process as part of the work required to upload data to the Annual Snapshot. Staff will be running quality assurance checks and data verification processes over the next number of weeks; please be on the lookout for and immediately address any requests to correct your previously certified data. Failure to respond within the timeline provided will result in public dissemination of the "as is," certified data your SD/SU submitted. The data you provide and certify will be used to determine your federal funding amounts.
2. Once the data cleaning and verification process is completed over the coming weeks, the AOE will provide the data to the vendor managing the statewide Annual Snapshot. The Snapshot will be released to SD/SU administrative teams after the vendor receives the finalized data, and to the general public thereafter. Please note that, in most cases, SD/SUs are using the state's Annual Snapshot to meet their own federal assurances for providing required data to the public. Currently, we are on track for a final public release of the Snapshot in late spring.

3. Revisions of SD/SUs' Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs) required for Title funding may be reliant on information in the Annual Snapshot, as good practice indicates continuous improvement should be a data-informed endeavor. An updated timeline for CIP revision, along with specific instructions for revision and submission, is forthcoming from the Education Quality and Consolidated Federal Programs Teams at AOE.

Thank you for your patience as we all work through initial implementation of the new system together.