

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Gary J. Daniels, Acting Secretary

House Education Committee

February 10, 2005

HB 2247 - Transfer of School Records

Integrated Service Delivery

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Representative Decker and members of the committee, I am Candy Shively, Deputy Secretary with Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). Thank you for the opportunity to appear today to discuss HB 2247.

HB 2247 places responsibility for the transfer of school records on the Secretary of SRS when a child in foster care transfers from one school to another. The bill also requires an annual report to the legislature which tracks the date the records transfer is requested and when records are received. While SRS supports the immediate transfer of school records to facilitate the ability of schools to meet the educational needs of these children, a system is already in place to facilitate the transfer.

SRS, the Department of Education and the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) collaborated to develop the Educational Enrollment Information Form (EEIF), which provides schools with essential information about students in out of home placement at the time of their enrollment. This form has been in use since 2001.

These same agencies also collaborated on a web-based system, the Foster Care Database. The data base includes the same information as the paper form, plus Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) data. Schools, SRS and JJA have access to the data base. The database was implemented at the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year.

Early in the implementation phase, it was discovered many schools were unaware of the database and some were precluded from using it because they did not have access to the internet. As a result, the paper process continues to be used in addition to the database. Department of Education staff provide information about the database to schools and encourage schools who have internet access to replace the paper process with the database.

SRS, JJA, and Department of Education continue to strongly support use of the Foster Care Database as the best means to ensure timely transfer of records. Meeting the educational needs of foster children is a shared value for state agencies, contract agencies and local schools.

SRS' new child welfare contracts which begin July 1, 2005, require contractors to keep children in the same school whenever possible. This new requirement should reduce the number of record transfers and benefit children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 2247. I would be happy to respond to questions.