WDIS Update (March 18, 1999): Summary of the SDCCMIS meeting with Jay Pfiefer

Jay Pfiefer met with the School Districts' MIS Council Steering Committee in Orlando. Highlights included the following:

- The first of the three annual WDIS submittals (the data for the summer, 1998 enrollees and completers) was due this past January.
- Of the 54 school districts having adult/vocational programs, 17 have made a submittal to the DOE to date;
- The Steering Committee recognized, given this lack of participation and the status of the largest majority of school districts, that "we do not have an information system."
- The district representatives recognized that limited staff resources, vacancies, the press of Y2K requirements, and the lateness of the DOE specifications becoming available to the school districts were all major factors contributing to this status.
- Recommendations were made to Jay including:
  i. Consider a "phased-in" reporting of the data, with only those data directly needed for the calculations being submitted this first year. Bill Piotrowski and Ron McCord volunteered to review the list of data essential to the calculation from Jay, and to recommend (with sharing among the Steering Committee and other interested districts) a reduced data submittal. This would not change the longer-range reporting requirements, but possibly eliminate (at least for the first phase of reporting—until after 2001) reporting some of the student characteristic data captured on registration (the definition of which have been problematic), and the by student, within course data, being simplified to reporting at the program or course level only.
  ii. Flagler County, one of the 17 districts making the WDIS report to date, will share the "paper" forms used in their collection and reporting of the data for the summer survey.
  iii. It was recommended that the DOE consider development of input screens, for registration, course scheduling and placement, course data collection, and completers/placement information, that would be directly available for use by all vocational and adult programs and run off central servers at the state level. This would preclude each of the 54 districts having to develop their own systems to meet the same set of reporting requirements. This is similar to the Community College model.
  iv. Jay's consistent working and updates to the Council were recognized and commended as he continues to work on implementing the mandates.
- In a subsequent agenda item, it was shared with Secretary McQuirk and Deputy Commissioner George Taynie that a moratorium on legislated requirements and mandates during the past year was strongly recommended (the Governor and Senator Kirkpatrick had been involved in supporting this recommendation). The WDIS system development was imposed regardless of the staffing crisis in EDP and has resulted in an untenable situation for almost all school districts.