

Kansas Department of

# **Social and Rehabilitation Services**

Gary J. Daniels, Secretary  
For additional information contact:

## **House Education Committee**

January 24, 2006

### **Tracking School Records Transfer for Kansas Foster Children**

#### **Integrated Service Delivery**

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for  
Kansas Foster Children**

Chair Decker and members of the committee, I am Sandra Hazlett, Director of Children and Family Services for SRS. I come before you today concerning the tracking of school records as required by HB 2331.

Attached you will find two charts delineating statistics about transfer of school records for children receiving foster care services. We are disappointed that despite considerable effort, we are unable to provide better information. The data are just too limited to be helpful. Please be assured that efforts continue and the report due December, 2006 should be much improved.

Schools did not have historical data nor was there a data system established by anyone to track the precise information requested for this report. Without historical data, the focus became the upcoming school year. Efforts began with the August, 2005 enrollment to collect data by hand from each school district as each child was enrolled for the 2005/2006 school year.

The tracking system began with a form provided to each receiving school upon enrollment. The receiving school was asked to document the date records were requested from the sending school and the date records were received. The forms were then returned to SRS for entry into a central database. Unfortunately, this effort has produced, at best, an incomplete picture. We must do better and are considering several options.

The administration of the database maintained by Northeast Kansas Education Service Center for electronic transfer and maintenance of Education Enrollment Information Form (EEIF) data has been transferred from the Department of Education to SRS. We are exploring whether the EEIF could be modified and this database used for tracking the number of days for education records to follow the child. We will certainly be able to track electronically when a child changes schools. Currently we monitor school moves via case reads.

In addition we will continue to explore with the Department of Education how SRS might be more effective in collecting the necessary data. We understand students now have individual identifying numbers and the system has the capability to track movement of students using these numbers. It is hoped this will be helpful if only in verifying the information gathered separately.

Additionally, SRS is planning to issue a RFP (request for proposals) for an educational ombudsman. This consultant would work with the schools, Department of Education, youth, social service staff, and others to assure coordination, identify problems and implement solutions for the variety of educational challenges facing children who are or have been in foster care. While the primary

purpose of this position is to solve identified questions and not data collection, the data collection is likely to be improved as relationships are developed and enhanced.

I respectfully request your patience with this ongoing process and am ready to stand for questions.