TO: All Local Education Agencies and Institutions of Higher Education
FROM: Jill Hans, Deputy Secretary, Office of Postsecondary and Higher Education
RE: Teacher Information Management System (TIMS)

The new Teacher Information Management System (TIMS) is nearly complete. This update provides important information about its progress and timeline.

Major software applications such as TIMS are complex and subject to delaying factors. The Department of Education is working to resolve all issues so that we can ensure this new online application system will meet your needs. It has been a challenging task but certainly a rewarding one.

We have automated the teacher certification process and enhanced the application so that teacher preparation programs, certification applicants, certificated individuals and employers will benefit from the efficiencies and enhancements of the new TIMS. I ask for your patience as the department works through the final stages and approaches the "go live" date. A major task at this time is the testing of the application to ensure the system works well for our users on the day it is launched.

Once a specific "go live" date for TIMS is determined, the Teacher Certification System (TCS), as well as the Professional Education Records Management System (PERMS), will be closed to allow for necessary updates for a period of two weeks prior to the TIMS implementation date. You will receive notification of the specific dates for this upgrade as soon as the department has a confirmed implementation date.

PERMS specific implications:

* During the period of closure, school districts and Act 48 providers will be unable to upload Act 48 hours for professional education activities, and institutions of higher education will be unable to upload college credits into PERMS. No updates of information will occur.
* Systems may be accessed for viewing information that is currently in the system at the time of closing.

TIMS/TCS specific implications:

* Paper applications will continue to be accepted and date stamped as received, but will not be entered into TCS or TIMS.
* Type 06, day-to-day emergency permits uploaded through TCS will not be available.
* Both systems may be accessed for viewing of information at the time of closing.

Operations will resume on all systems on the announced "go live" date. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience. The department is excited to share this new system with you.

Via Penn*Link

Sent: November 7, 2011 – 9:51 a.m.