

Dear State Workforce Agency Administrator:

Enclosed for your review and execution is the new Wage Record Interchange System (WRIS) Data Sharing Agreement. The enclosed Agreement will replace the WRIS Consolidated Data Sharing Agreement that was previously executed between the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) and participating states. As you know, the Agreement executed between NASWA and the states was nullified when NASWA gave notice on October 27, 2006, of its intent not to continue as a party to the old Agreement.

The enclosed new WRIS Agreement is essentially identical in substantive content to the previous Agreement except that it designates the administrative and data confidentiality compliance tasks previously performed by NASWA as tasks to be performed under the direction of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). To aid your review, enclosed is a side-by-side comparison of the key provisions of the previous, versus the newly proposed, Agreement.

Your expedited action on the new Agreement is requested. ETA is encouraging states to sign and return the Agreement no later than December 31, 2006. Prompt action will minimize the risk of under-reporting when second quarter Program Year 2006 performance is reported at the beginning of the next calendar year.

Please note there are two places in the Agreement that require your agency to provide information. The first page of the Agreement asks for information that identifies the date the Agreement was entered into; the identity of the State Unemployment Insurance Agency (SUIA) and the Performance Accountability and Customer Information Agency (PACIA), or agencies, that will participate in WRIS; and the name of the state providing the information. Page 16 asks for SUIA and PACIA contact information.

Page 17 requires the signature of SUIA and PACIA officials who have the authority to designate their agency as a party to the new Agreement. Please submit the signed Agreement through the ETA regional office serving your state and address it to the attention of the Regional Administrator. When ETA receives the signed Agreement, I will sign on behalf of ETA and return the Agreement to you for your records.

As you know, we continue to partner with states to build an integrated workforce investment system. Educational agencies are a critical partner in this enterprise and require access to the same resources to report performance data as workforce agencies. I strongly urge you to consider designating your state educational agency as an additional PACIA covered by this data sharing agreement.

ETA staff is available to work with states to answer questions and to provide technical assistance as needed. The primary contacts in ETA are John R. Beverly, Administrator, Office of Performance and Technology, and Karen Staha, Chief, Division of System Accomplishments and Accountability. Mr. Beverly may be contacted at (202) 693-3502 and Ms. Staha may be contacted at (202) 693-2917. If you need additional assistance, please contact your Regional Administrator.

Within two weeks of the date of this letter, ETA will host a conference call to determine states' progress toward executing the new Agreement and to answer questions. We plan to invite your state's designated SUIA and PACIA contacts to participate in the call. Please let Mr. Beverly or Ms. Staha know if additional or alternative representatives of your state should participate.

Thank you for your prompt action on this request and for your support in fully documenting the performance of the workforce investment system.

Sincerely,

Emily Stover DeRocco

Enclosures