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Education is coming of age. Indeed, the present and near future years may one day be called the Age of Education. And these years are granting considerable satisfaction to educators. Recognition of the importance of the field of education is ballooning, and this is gratifying. But this is only a side-product of the real satisfactions educators seek.

The saying, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts," is well appreciated by educators. To be active in some contributing aspect of edu-

cation, helping to assure that the whole **is** greater, brings satisfaction beyond mere recognition.

The MSEIP, through the combined efforts of personnel in the 13 participating states, is developing an integrated, educational information system for state departments. This is an innovative, positive response to an important educational challenge.

The completed system will be a contribution of significance within each of the states, within this group of states, and potentially to the Nation. This is the sort of contribution educators seek to take part in. Project personnel in the 13 states count their work in the development of the MSEIP as a source of enduring satisfaction in contributing to the whole of education.

Sam H Bliss

MIDWESTERN STATES EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION PROJECT
P.L. 89-10, TITLE V, Section 505
STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

As greater and greater demands are being made upon our Nation's schools, the need for pertinent and accurate statistical information about our schools becomes increasingly important and at the same time increasingly time consuming and burdensome.

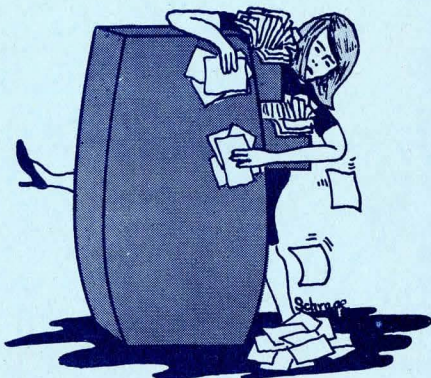
Nevertheless, in order to make sound decisions, often of tremendous importance to the Nation and to the Nation's youth, educators must obtain vital information. And the form of this information, its accuracy, its availability, its timeliness, will influence educators and school administrators in the decisions reached and the policies enacted.

Also, as education emerges as one of the Nation's big businesses, and as the Federal Government assumes a more active role through financial aid, states' responsibilities for gathering and reporting educational information continue to increase the complexity of information handling.

In response to this urgent need for timely, accurate, pertinent information, the Midwestern States Educational Information Project (MSEIP) was conceived through the combined efforts of the Chief State School Officers of thirteen midwestern states: Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The Project was outlined in detail, giving thorough attention to objectives, methods, and testing. These plans were submitted to the U. S. Office of Education in December, 1965. Under the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-10, Title V, Section 505) funds were granted and work on MSEIP began early in 1966.

The purpose of this brochure is to acquaint the reader with the basic philosophy and methods of the Project; more comprehensive material is available and will be supplied on request.



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OBJECTIVES

● Specific Objective

The Midwestern States Educational Information Project's specific objective is to develop an integrated, educational information system for 13 State Education Agencies (SEA's).

Such a system will:

- be applicable to the overall administration of SEA's
- include information systems of all SEA areas
- provide for integration of information of all SEA areas
- lessen duplication in educational information reporting, processing and dissemination
- be compatible among the 13 participating SEA's and all SEA's that chose to adapt the system

● Related Objectives

An integrated, educational information system will also:

- provide basic data for SEA information systems
- provide feedback to local school districts
- provide report information for the U. S. Office of Education
- provide a means for integrating information from each of the five information areas, Facilities, Finances, Instructional Programs, Personnel, and Pupils
- provide quantitative information that can be applied by the user for qualitative purposes
- be consistent with USOE Handbooks and Committee on Educational Data Systems (CEDS)
- communicate with and relate to other educational and research projects, agencies, and institutions

PROJECT PHASES

● Planning and Development of Project

Proposal writing, funding, staffing and committee organization
— to June 1966

● Committee Explorations

Subsystem organization of committees: Facilities, Finances, Instructional Programs, Personnel, and Pupils

Preparation of subsystem philosophies, rationales, and approaches
— to December 1966

● Subsystem Development

Preparation of item listings, definitions, and coding structures
Documentation
— to June 1967

● Evaluation and Technical Development

Field Testing — evaluate component parts of MSEIP Operational System

Revision and modification of component parts

Technical System development — integrate subsystems and design general system; modify design for states' specific needs

● Pilot Testing and Documentation

Model testing in states

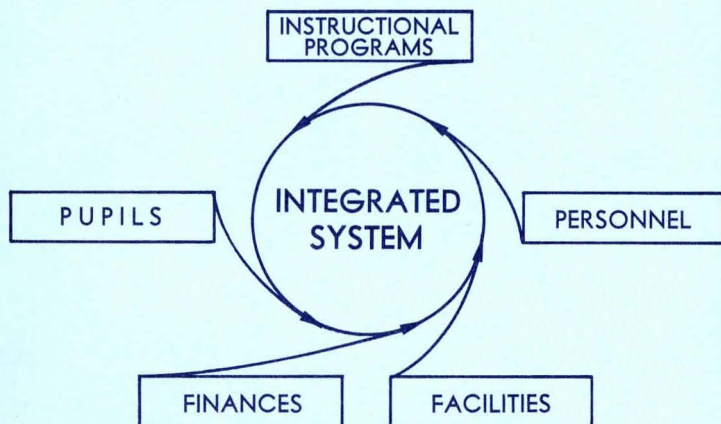
Final documentation of MSEIP Operational System

— to June 30, 1968

● Overall and Long Range Planning

Individual plans by states for adapting the MSEIP Operational System

Continued comprehensive planning and development of SEA information systems



THE MSEIP OPERATIONAL SYSTEM

The research and developmental activities of participating SEA personnel produced the MSEIP Operational System. The specifics of input, processing, and output, necessary to an integrated, educational information system, were developed by Project personnel of the 13 participating states. Work of the various MSEIP committees produced the component parts of the MSEIP Operational System.

Component Parts

Input — data item lists
data item definitions
classification and coding structure
collection procedures and forms

Processing — file definition and organization
general system design
specific systems design
programming specifications
documentation

Output — reports - SEA, USOE, others
feedback - LEA
data bank for analysis and research

Adaptation by States

Adaptation of the MSEIP Operational System is appropriate for each participating SEA. Any state may choose to apply the System or parts of it to that state's current information system. Modifications can be made for specific states' needs without loss of compatibility among the states.

RESULTS AND BENEFITS

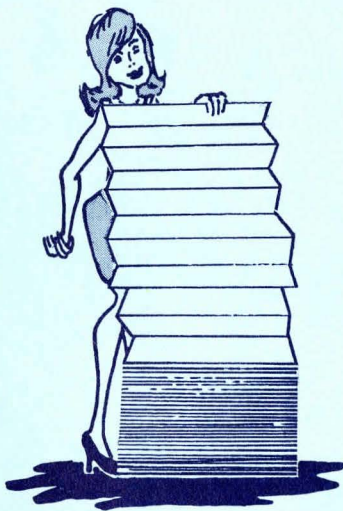
States adapting the MSIEP Operational System can expect these results:

- Increased availability of timely, accurate information needed for educational decision making
- Lessening of duplication of effort in educational data collection, processing, and dissemination
- More efficient transmission of educational information
- Better reporting and informing of educational progress
- Educational data readily available for research

These benefits can be expected to follow the above results:

- Improved positions of educational leadership for SEA's
- Reduced clerical load at local and state educational levels
- Improved communication and cooperation among SEA's
- Improved public image and confidence

Benefits Now Accruing



- Improved communication and co-operation among the SEA's
- An improved basis for SEA inter-departmental communication
- A broadened viewpoint of SEA personnel regarding potential of information systems and data processing
- Clarification of the role of SEA's
- Added personnel in participating SEA's
- Resource material developed pertinent to evaluation of current SEA information collection systems and helpful in forms control
- Development of states' SEA committees to continue comprehensive planning and development

MSEIP Addresses



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STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA

☐ 16mm film, *A Few States Together*. Dates wanted_____

☐ 35mm slide set with tape, *Nice To Know*. Dates wanted_____

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☐ Please place my name on the mailing list to receive the MSEIP NEWSLETTER

NAME_____

TITLE_____

ADDRESS_____

OTHER MATERIALS ABOUT MSEIP

A FEW STATES TOGETHER

A 16mm sound color film available on free loan to educational institutions, schools and other groups. It serves as an introduction and explanation of MSEIP and shows the urgent need for a modern educational information system. Running time: 15 minutes.



NICE TO KNOW

A 35mm color slide set with sound on tape is also available on free loan. This presentation covers the facts about MSEIP and makes thorough use of graphs and charts. Printed script also included. Running time: 17 minutes.



NEWSLETTER

A six page printed bulletin covering news, personnel, progress and other items of interest about MSEIP. Free of charge to interested persons.

TO REQUEST THESE MATERIALS
PLEASE USE ORDER BLANK OR CONTACT:

**State of Iowa Department of Public Instruction
State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa**

MSEIP Coordinators in each of the 13 states are also in a position to supply information and materials. Inquiries may be directed to the office of the State Coordinator, MSEIP, at your State Department of Public Instruction. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed on page 7.

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