



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Tom Burnham, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

September 27, 2011

INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT REPORT FINDINGS

Stacey E. Pickering State Auditor
Office of the State Auditor
P.O. Box 956
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0956

Dear Mr. Pickering:

In accordance with your August 1, 2011 correspondence, the Department of Education is providing the following responses and corrective action plans for the Information Systems Audit findings.

AUDIT FINDING:

User-ids for Separated Employees Were Found in the Current RACF and Active Directory Listings

Response:

We concur with the finding and the recommendation.

Corrective Action Plan:

A. Specific steps to be taken to correct the situation:

As stated in the OSA audit report, MDE/MIS had removed the separated employees. Although MIS receives terminated employee notifications from the MDE Human Resources Office, MIS will explore the feasibility of creating an automated methodology of removing terminated employees from active directory.

B. Name of the contact person responsible for the corrective action.

John O. Gilbert, CPA
Director of Education Accountability

C. Anticipated completion date for corrective action.

MDE/MIS expects to implement improved methods of removal of terminated employees within 120 working days.

MDE Should Set Expiration Parameters for All Individual's RACF Passwords

Response:

We concur with the finding and the recommendation.

Corrective Action Plan:

A. Specific steps to be taken to correct the situation:

MDE/MIS will contact the ITS RACF administrator and request that ITS apply appropriate security parameters to the ITS mainframe RACF security system in all matters concerning MDE.

B. Name of the contact person responsible for the corrective action.

John O. Gilbert, CPA
Director of Education Accountability

C. Anticipated completion date for corrective action.

MDE would anticipate ITS applying this change within 90 days.

Access to the Computer Room Should Be Monitored

Response:

We concur with the finding and the recommendation.

Corrective Action Plan:

A. Specific steps to be taken to correct the situation:

MDE/MIS maintains two levels of computer room access, the low level risk area of the outer computer room and the more restricted inner computer room. MIS agrees the number of staff still allowed access to the outer computer room was excessive since the help desk has been removed from that area. Therefore, during the course of the OSA review, the access list was modified and only those staff who have actual computer room duties have been retained on the access list. Additionally a control log has been established for any visitors or service personnel to be escorted into the computer room.

B. Name of the contact person responsible for the corrective action.

John O. Gilbert, CPA
Director of Education Accountability

C. Anticipated completion date for corrective action.

Completed.

Separated Employees Were Found in the Current Oracle Database

Response:

We concur with the finding and the recommendation.

Corrective Action Plan:

A. Specific steps to be taken to correct the situation:

MDE/MIS reviewed the Oracle database rights and removed any personnel that either were no longer with MDE, or did not have duties that required such rights.

B. Name of the contact person responsible for the corrective action.

John O. Gilbert, CPA
Director of Education Accountability

C. Anticipated completion date for corrective action.

Completed

ORS Needs to Improve Controls over Data Management and Reporting

Response:

We concur with the finding and the recommendation.

Corrective Action Plan:

A. Specific steps to be taken to correct the situation:

ORS will fully comply with the requirements as outlined in the audit report.

B. Name of the contact person responsible for the corrective action.

John O. Gilbert, CPA
Director of Educational Accountability

C. Anticipated completion date for corrective action.

MDE would anticipate this being completed within the next 180 days.

Sincerely,



Tom Burnham
State Superintendent of Education

Cc: Mississippi Board of Education Members