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EDUCATION LAW ALERT

New York State Launches the Unemployment Insurance State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES)

The New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) recently implemented a new web-based system called the Unemployment Insurance State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES), which directly connects the NYSDOL with employers for purposes of investigating and resolving claims for unemployment benefits. The system transmits questions by former employees about unemployment insurance claims directly from the NYSDOL to employers in order to promptly process claims and avoid fraud. According to the NYSDOL, SIDES aims to prevent unemployment benefits from going to people who do not deserve them, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and employers' accounts.

For smaller employers with no representative, SIDES E-Response system provides a simple way for employers to respond to the NYSDOL's requests for information. For larger employers, SIDES provides an automated and efficient data sharing and file-tracking interface between employers, third party administrators, and state agency networks. Because the computer systems are "speaking" to each other, SIDES provides an efficient and reliable way to handle a large volume of unemployment insurance information transactions. According to the NYSDOL, other benefits of SIDES include but are not limited to improved fraud detection, faster response times, a single point of contact for questions and answers, lower postage and less paper, and fewer phone calls and less correspondence between the NYSDOL and employers. And, by the way, it is free to use.

For more information about SIDES and to learn how to sign up, visit https://labor.ny.gov/ui/employerinfo/sides-overview.shtm.

This alert can also be read on our Education Law blog: http://www.hancocklaw.com/education-law-blog/

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