

July 21, 2015

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Welcome to the first NCSI Networker, the quarterly newsletter of the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI). NCSI aims to help states transform their systems and support their districts and local early intervention service programs in improving educational results and functional outcomes for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities. Keep up to date with recent products, webinars, resources, and announcements at [www.ncsi.wested.org](http://www.ncsi.wested.org) or by following NCSI on Twitter at [@TheNCSI](https://twitter.com/TheNCSI). Stay tuned, as we will release a new website soon!

## TA in Action

### NCSI is Excited to Kick off the Cross State Learning Collaboratives!

NCSI's Cross-State Learning Collaboratives will establish a network of shared leadership and peer support that provides face-to-face and ongoing virtual interactions to help states improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The Learning Collaboratives offer sustained targeted technical assistance to support states and build capacity around data use, evidence-based practices for effective teaching and learning, systems change, and communication and collaboration.

The Learning Collaboratives focus areas include early literacy (birth–Grade 3), intermediate and adolescent literacy (Grades 4 and above), mathematics, social-emotional outcomes (young children), graduation and postschool outcomes, results-based accountability systems, school turnaround, and family outcomes (young children). Focus-area Q&A sessions were held during late June and early July. Did you miss a session that you were interested in attending? [Click here to view the recordings.](#)

By July 24, 2015, states must submit to NCSI a non-binding letter of intent to participate ([view letter of intent template](#)), including their desired priority area, signed by their Part B Director or Part C Coordinator, followed by a formal letter of

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## Mark Your Calendars

### Webinars

NCSI recently collaborated with the Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) Center to host, *Assessment of Social and Emotional Development in the Context of*

*Relationship* on July 15<sup>th</sup>. [View the recording and NCSI's other archived webinars on the NCSI website and stay tuned for upcoming webinars.](#)

### Conferences

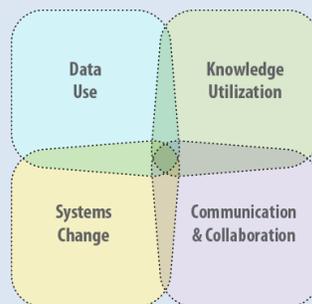
See NCSI staff present and facilitate sessions at these upcoming conferences.

[OSEP Leadership](#)

commitment due August 14, 2015 ([view letter of commitment template](#)). The first in-person Learning Collaborative will take place in early September. See a [draft agenda](#) and the [tentative locations and dates](#) for the first in-person meetings. [Learn more about the Learning Collaboratives](#) and [view an archived webinar discussing their launch](#).

## Service Area Highlights

NCSI is composed of four service area teams: Data Use, Knowledge Utilization, Systems Change, and Communication & Collaboration. These teams develop tools, resources, and supports for delivery of technical assistance.



### How do we find and implement evidence-based practices related to the SIMRs?

The Knowledge Utilization Team supports knowledge development, selection, and use of evidence-based practices related to state identified measurable results (SIMRs) for Parts B and C and builds capacity to successfully implement evidence-based practices at the local level. What are some of the things the team is doing?

- Tackling the question of defining levels of evidence for evidence-based practices, capacity building around evidence-based practices, and measuring progress toward SIMRs. [Learn more about the recent Thought Leader Forum on Measuring and Assessing Progress toward SIMRs conducted in partnership with the Data Use team.](#)
- Hosting webinars, conference sessions, and workshops highlighting evidence-based practices and approaches to address a range of topics in Parts C and B, including criteria for evidence, multi-tiered systems of supports, evidence-based practices in mathematics and reading, social-emotional learning, transition, and more. [View past webinars.](#)
- Developing website resources and curating relevant resources from other technical assistance centers to

[Conference, July 27–29, 2015, Washington D.C.](#)

[NASDSE 2015, October 4-6, 2015, Baltimore MD.](#)

[DEC's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, October 7-9, 2015, Atlanta GA.](#)

[CASE 26th Annual Conference, October 29–20, 2015 Atlanta GA](#)

## Updates from ED

### OSEP Announcements

#### Phase II Guidance

At the Chicago and Jacksonville IDC Institutes, OSEP staff shared the [Part B State Systemic Improvement Plan \(SSIP\) Phase II Guidance Document](#), the [Part C State Systemic Improvement Plan \(SSIP\) Phase II Guidance Document](#), and [presented what was learned from Phase I and what they expect from Phase II.](#)

#### State Determinations

Recognizing that “systems change takes time,” OSEP will not include the SSIP in either the 2015 or 2016 annual state determinations. [View the 2015 determinations.](#)

#### Updated Due Dates

To provide states with additional time to complete

share information about evidence-based practices as they relate to SIMR areas.

Stay tuned for more from the Knowledge Utilization Team and [learn more about the focus of the other service areas](#).

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## Partner Resources to Support SSIP Implementation

### Review and Plan with SISEP's District Capacity Assessment

The [State Implementation and Scale-up Evidence-based Practices Center \(SISEP\)](#) has developed a district capacity assessment that is designed to help educational district leaders and staff better align resources with intended outcomes and develop action plans to support for the use of effective innovations. Prior to using the online tool, users must complete an online training module that introduces users to the tool. [View the online module, tool, and learn more about SISEP](#).

### New Early Childhood Behavior Management Module from the IRIS Center

The [IRIS Center](#) recently released a new interactive module, [Early Childhood Behavior Management: Developing and Teaching Rules](#), that includes information on how to create developmentally appropriate behavior rules for early childhood classrooms so they link to a given school's behavior expectations. View the [module](#) or watch an [archived webinar](#). Additional modules and resources are available on the [Center's website](#).

### Sample Lessons and Activities to Support Mathematics Instruction from NCII

[The National Center on Intensive Intervention \(NCII\)](#) has developed a series of sample lessons and activities intended to assist special education teachers, interventionists, and others working with students with intensive mathematics needs. The lessons and activities are not intended to be used as an intervention, but can provide support for developing and customizing lessons to meet student needs. NCII just released a new sample lesson on Place Value Computation. [View the new lessons and the rest of the series on the NCII website](#).

the important work of Phase II, OSEP has extended the due date for the Phase II SSIP to April 1, 2016. Phase III will still be due on February 1, 2017, as a part of the FFY 2015 SPP/APR submission.

### OSEP Leadership Conference

The 2015 OSEP Leadership conference will be held July 27–29, 2015, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. View the [agenda](#) and follow the conference on Twitter at #LC2015.

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### Meet the NCSI Team



NCSI is led by Co-Directors Rorie Fitzpatrick and Kristin Reedy from WestEd. Together they bring a passion for supporting students with disabilities and more than 50 years of combined experience in promoting outcomes for children and youth with disabilities across special and general education. They have served as teachers and administrators at the school, district, and state levels, and as technical assistance providers, consultants and professional development

## NTACT Releases a Guide to Support School-Community Business Partnerships

Ensuring students with disabilities graduate prepared for success in postsecondary education and employment takes collaboration from schools and communities. The [National Technical Assistance Center on Transition \(NTACT\)](#) recently released a [guide](#) highlighting strategies for developing, forming, engaging, and sustaining partnerships between schools and communities. Learn more about NTACT by visiting their [website](#) and watching an [introductory webinar](#).

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## State Spotlight

### State Teams Come Together for IDC Institutes

At three recent interactive institutes hosted by the IDEA Data Center (IDC), in collaboration with multiple Technical Assistance and Dissemination Centers, including NCSI, state teams from across the country joined OSEP staff and technical assistance staff to build capacity in the design, implementation, and evaluation of State Systemic Improvement Plans (SSIP). [Learn more state involvement in the IDC Institutes.](#)

providers.

[Learn more about the NCSI co-directors and the rest of the NCSI leadership team.](#)

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### What is the Ask the NCSI?

Do you have a question about “what works” to improve results for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities? Are you looking for information related to developing, implementing or evaluating your SSIP? Do you want to learn from other states? *Ask the NCSI* is intended to help states tackle these questions. [Click here to submit a request](#) or contact NCSI at [NCSI@wested.org](mailto:NCSI@wested.org) or 866-664-8471.

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