

February 24, 2016

[View this email in your browser](#)

The National Center for Systemic Improvement (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 and toddlers with disabilities and their families, children and youth with disabilities. Keep up to date with recent products, webinars, resources, and announcements at www.ncsi.wested.org or by following NCSI on Twitter at [@TheNCSI](https://twitter.com/TheNCSI).

TA in Action

Cross-State Learning Collaboratives

Over the past five months, NCSI held nine face-to-face cross state learning collaborative (CSLC) meetings to launch CSLCs representing literacy and language, mathematics, graduation and post school outcomes, systems alignment, results based accountability, social emotional development and family outcomes. Approximately 761 participants, representing 41 states, DC, and eight territories participated with some states sending teams for both Part B and Part C and some participating in more than one CSLC.

In January, NCSI's Systems Alignment Learning Collaborative held the final face-to-face kick-off meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. The in-person face-to-face meeting brought together more than 70 collaborative members from nine states, who had already participated virtually for a number of months.

Through cross-state sharing and individual state team work, participants identified technical and adaptive challenges and opportunities in aligning systems within the state education agency (SEA) and among the local education agencies (LEAs) they support. As a guide for the work, a tool, "Quilting Silos," was used with the participants to make concrete connections to their own work through the unpacking of a hypothetical, but all too real, SEA-based

QUICK LINKS

- [TA in Action](#)
- [Service Area Highlights](#)
- [Partner Resources](#)
- [State Spotlight](#)
- [Mark Your Calendars](#)
- [Updates from ED](#)
- [Meet the NCSI Team](#)
- [Ask the NCSI](#)

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Webinars

Register for upcoming webinar, [What Counts as Evidence? Making Decisions for Instruction and Intervention within a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support](#), sponsored by NCII, CEEDAR, and NCSI. This webinar will be held on March 10, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The webinar, presented by Rebecca Zumeta Edmonds, Allison Gruner Gandhi, and Lynn Holdheide, will focus on the continuum of evidence that supports instruction within multi-tiered systems of support.

[Register for the webinar here.](#)

scenario. Also present at the event were U.S. Department of Education staff, including Michael Yudin, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Service, and Dr. Monique Chism, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs, Office of Secondary and Elementary Education. States had an opportunity to hear the "View from Washington" regarding the federal perspective on systems alignment and to dive deeper through a question-and-answer session addressing the application of the federal perspective, including the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A state attendee shared, "The thoughtful planning of NCSI was phenomenal! Very intentional activities and you could tell a lot of thought and time went into it."

Following the face-to-face meetings, CSLCs have shifted to ongoing virtual collaboration. CSLCs are hosting webinars, discussion forums, and sharing resources. Virtual collaboration is supported through individualized [CSLC Ning sites](#) that were developed to encourage member interaction and sharing of resources. The Ning sites are password protected and open only to members of the Learning Collaborative community. If you have a question about joining Ning or navigating the sites, contact ncsi@wested.org or your CSLC lead. Resources including materials and videos that have utility for individuals who are not a part of a given CSLC, and who are interested in a given subject, are posted on our [NCSI website](#) under the Resources tab, and are available to all who are interested without password protection

NCSI Hosts Thought Leader Forum on Levels of Evidence

On February 17–18, 2016, the Knowledge Utilization team hosted a thought leader forum titled "Levels of Evidence for Evidence-Based Practices." This forum included parents, technical assistance providers, researchers, and federal, state, and local representatives with expertise in Part B and C. Meeting participants worked to identify common challenges, needs, and points of confusion about evidence-based practices; discussed and developed criteria for talking about evidence quality across levels of a system; and identified resources to be developed and disseminated by NCSI.

Service Area Highlights

Are you unable to attend the webinar? The recording will be posted on the NCII and NCSI websites following the live event.

Archived Webinars

Missed the two-part national evaluation webinar? NCSI, ECTA, IDC, and OSEP collaborated to host two webinars focused on evaluation planning in the context of Phase II of the SSIP. The webinars clarified OSEP's Phase II requirements, development of a quality evaluation plan, and the process of moving from a theory of action to a logic model. Panelists included Gregg Corr, Judy Gregorian, Al Jones, Larry Ringer (OSEP); Lou Danielson (NCSI); Tom Fiore (IDC); and Megan Vinh (ECTA).

View [Part I](#) and [Part II](#) and find the webinar slides on the [NCSI website](#)

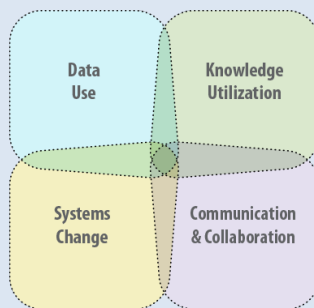
Conferences

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

Council of Chief State School Officers Assessing Special Education Students and Formative Assessment for Students and Teachers State Collaboratives on Assessment and Student Standards Winter Meeting, February 25–26, 2016, Los Angeles, CA

Poster session at [Carnegie](#)

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



How do we evaluate and measure our State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) implementation?

The focus of the Data Use service team is to promote the use of high-quality data as the basis for the development, implementation, and evaluation of the SSIP. Team members are content specialists in planning evaluations, collecting data, improving data systems, analyzing root causes, selecting appropriate data sets to inform decision making, and applying data for decision making. The NCSI Data Use team works closely with the IDEA Data Center (IDC), Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA), The Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy), and other TA centers to develop tools and resources to support evaluation and data collection efforts.

View some of the resources the team has helped to develop and stay tuned for additional resources to be posted in the coming months:

[NCSI Brief—Advantages of Assessing SiMR Progress by Tracking a Sample Over Time](#)

When planning your SSIP evaluation, it is critical that you choose a design that will capture your target population's progress toward the State-Identified Measurable Result (SiMR). However, that population will change over time. This brief provides an overview of approaches to and advantages of tracking a broader group of at-risk students over time.

[State Systemic Improvement Plan \(SSIP\) Evaluation Planning: A Companion Resource to the Office of Special Education Program's \(OSEP's\) SSIP Phase II Guidance Tool](#)

This document provides a series of questions to help states develop or review the completeness of the evaluation component for Phase II of the SSIP. The evaluation tool serves as a companion piece to the OSEP Guidance and Review Tool as it includes probing questions for states to consider when engaging in evaluation planning.

[Foundation Summit on Improvement in Education](#), March 22–24, 2016, San Francisco, CA

Multiple sessions at [Council for Exceptional Children 2016](#), April 13–16, 2016, St. Louis, MO

IDC Interactive Institutes 2016: High-Quality Part B Data. [Save the date](#): May 10–11, 2016, in Kansas City, MO, and June 1–2, 2016, in Savannah, GA

Missed the OSEP Leadership Conference and the NCSI presentations? [Register](#) and view recorded presentations until April 1, 2016

Updates from ED

OSEP Announcements

Phase II is due **April 1, 2016**

[Part C Grant Applications Due April 21, 2016](#)

[Part B Grant Applications Due May 12, 2016](#)

[Thirty-seventh Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Parts B and C \(2015\) now available.](#)

[Learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act](#)

[Recommended Resources for Planning to Evaluate Program Improvement Efforts](#)

This document offers a list of recommended resources for state Part C and Part B 619 staff and TA providers to support evaluation planning for program improvement efforts (including the SSIP).

Partner Resources to Support SSIP Implementation

IDC Releases Two New Tools Related to SSIP Evaluation

[Using a Theory of Action to Develop Performance Indicators to Measure Progress Toward a SiMR](#) focuses on the relationship between SSIP Phases I and II by demonstrating how the theory of action can be used to develop the SSIP evaluation plan and performance indicators that measure progress toward the SiMR.

[Considerations for Making Changes to SiMR Baseline and Targets](#) addresses factors that could lead Part C or Part B state agencies to propose a change in their SiMR baselines or targets.

IRIS, CEEDAR, and NCII Collaborate on New Modules

In collaboration with NCII and CEEDAR, the IRIS Center has released two new modules focused on intensive intervention. [Part 1: Using Data-Based Individualization to Intensify Instruction](#) presents an overview of data-based individualization as well as information about adaptations for intensifying and individualizing instruction. [Part 2: Collecting and Analyzing Data for Data-Based Individualization](#) offers information on making data-based instructional decisions. Specifically, the resource discusses collecting and analyzing data from progress monitoring and diagnostic assessments. The IRIS Center modules are based on adult learning theory and use principles of universal design for learning. Each module includes the following sections: Challenge, Initial Thoughts, Perspectives & Resources, Wrap Up, and Assessment. They can be used as part of professional development, for individual learning, and in teacher preparation courses. Learn more about [navigating the modules](#) and view the range of resources and modules available on the [IRIS Center site](#).

NCSI and National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) Collaborate on Lessons Learned Brief

The new large-scale assessments rolled out by consortia

Meet the NCSI Team



NCSI's work incorporates the lifespan, and the team includes expertise in both Parts B and C.

Virginia Reynolds, co-director of WestEd's Center for Prevention & Early Intervention, contributes expertise in Part C and Section 619 of Part B and holds extensive knowledge of special education within the context of systems improvement.

Lou Danielson, a managing director at American Institutes for Research, brings extensive knowledge in special education policy, practice, research, and evaluation. He is the center director for NCII and has been an advisor for the National Center on Response to Intervention and National High School Center. Danielson previously held leadership roles at OSEP and was responsible for the IDEA national activities programs.

[Learn more about the rest of the NCSI leadership team.](#)

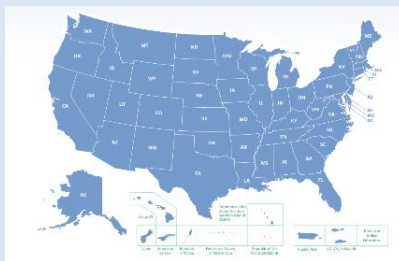
and states are designed to measure student achievement of rigorous college- and career-ready standards. Recent surveys of teachers in several states indicate that students with disabilities like many features of the new assessments, but that there also are challenges. Many of these challenges are related to instructional issues that need to be addressed to improve student outcomes. In the recently released brief, [Lessons Learned About Instruction from Inclusion of Students with Disabilities in College and Career Ready Assessments](#), NCSI and NCEO provide information and suggestions for SEAs and other TA providers who work with LEAs.

State Spotlight

Are you looking for information about other states?

[Use the interactive map available on the NCSI website](#) to

find out about states and territories. Click on a state to learn more, including each state's SiMR for Part B and Part C, the learning collaborative(s) it is participating in (if applicable), and the assigned NCSI TA facilitators for that state.



Interested in being featured as part of a state spotlight or state brief?

NCSI is looking for states that would be interested in sharing successes, challenges, lessons learned, and advice related to their SSIP work. If you would be interested in sharing your story, please let your TA facilitator know or contact Patrice Linehan at Patrice.linehan@nasdse.org or 703-519-1492.

Have a Question? Submit It to 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 or 866-664-8471.



[Follow NCSI on
Twitter!](#)

The National Center for Systemic Improvement is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs contract No. H326R140006. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Education. No official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of any product, commodity, service, or enterprise mentioned on this website is intended or should be inferred.

Copyright © 2016 NCSI, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)