June 2, 2016

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WestEd NCSI NETWORKER
Connecting you with updates and resources to help drive results for students with disabilities.

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 and 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.

TA in Action
CSLC Resources Available on the NCSI Website

NCSI's series of cross-state learning collaborative (CSLC) face-to-face meetings, held in fall and winter 2015, provided a wealth of materials and resources. You can find the presentation slides, videos of presentations, and workbooks for all seven collaboratives on the NCSI website.

NCSI CSLCs Host Meetings for Team Leads!

As the CSLCs continue to engage through Ning, the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) team leads are coming together in a series of face-to-face meetings throughout the spring. These convenings provide opportunities for team leads to learn from each other, ask questions, and jump-start the work of Phase III.

- Social Emotional Outcomes leads met on April 12–13 in Phoenix, AZ.
- Family Outcomes leads met on April 7–8 in Chicago, IL.
- Systems Alignment and Results-Based Accountability leads met on May 17–18 in Chicago, IL.
- Language and Literacy and Mathematics will meet

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Mark Your Calendars

Webinars

NCSI, ECTA, and DaSy are cohosting a webinar for state Part B and Part C staff focused on strategies for assessing the impact of SSIP infrastructure improvements. The virtual state panel, which includes representatives from state and lead agencies, will be held June 6, 2016 3–4:30 p.m. Register.

NCSI with Barbara Sims from the State Implementation and Scaling-up of Evidence-based Practices Center (SISEP), and Noelle Converse, Director of Special Education, Granite School District (UT) hosted "An

on June 28–29 in Washington, DC.

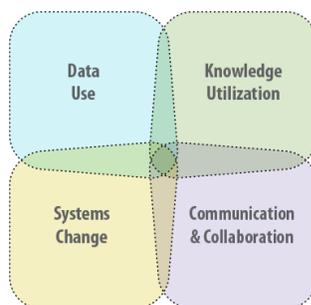## NCSI Presents Multiple Sessions at CEC

NCSI presented a number of sessions at CEC on April 13–16 in St. Louis, MO. In collaboration with the National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII), NCSI's Knowledge Utilization and Data Use teams hosted sessions focused on literacy, mathematics, data, and supporting English language learners. Presenters were happy to have many local practitioners as participants in the CEC sessions, but were surprised to observe that few were familiar with Results Driven Accountability or knew their state identified measurable result (SiMR). View the presentations on the NCSI website.

NCSI Developed a Database of Technical Assistance (TA) and Research Centers

Looking for information on a Department of Education funded TA or research center? The NCSI Knowledge Utilization Team developed a filterable database of technical assistance and research centers that address a range of topics. Choose and apply filters to narrow the list of centers to the ones that address the descriptors of interest. Filter by age level, SiMR area, or center type. Click on the name of a center to view more details and access links specific to that center. View the database.

Service Area Highlights

NCSI is composed of four service area teams: Data Use, Knowledge Utilization, Systems Change, and Communication and Collaboration.

Systems Change Service Area Team
The Systems Change Service Area Team focuses on providing support to state education agencies (SEAs) and lead agencies as they work to improve infrastructure, capacity for transformation, and system coherence. The team has recently created subteams to work on products and services in the following areas:

Overview of Discussions and Resources from NCSI's Thought Leader Forum on Building and Measuring Capacity" on May 25. View the recording.

Conferences

Save the date to see NCSI staff present and facilitate sessions at these upcoming conferences.

OSEP Project Directors Conference, August, 1–3 2016, Washington, DC

Preconference workshop: Integrating the SSIP into Early Childhood Improvement Initiatives in Your State in conjunction with the Improving Data, Improving Outcomes Conference, August 13–17, 2016, New Orleans, LA

CASE and NASDSE Annual Conference 2016, September 25–27, 2016, Milwaukee, WI

Updates from ED

OSEP Announcements

Differentiated Monitoring and Support Rollout
OSEP recently released the Results Driven Accountability Differentiated Monitoring and Support Notice (DMS Notice) for Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015. For this fiscal year, OSEP will focus on Part B with both Part B and Part C launching in FFY 2016. Learn more.

- Alignment of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This subteam is planning for a Thought Leader Forum to engage in shared learning and facilitated conversation aimed at identifying tangible issues and compiling recommendations to support states on this topic.
- Infrastructure for design and implementation of effective professional development efforts for staff supporting Part B and C programs at the state and local levels.
- High-leverage teaching and learning conditions that bridge special education and general education for core instructional skills.

A number of products and resources addressing these topics will be available soon.

In addition, the team held a Thought Leader Forum on building and measuring state capacity in November 2015. From that forum, three tools were developed and are available on the NCSI website:

- NCSI Thought Leader Forum: Building and Measuring Capacity provides an overview of the forum and how researchers and experts in capacity building grappled with the question, What does it mean to build and measure capacity in the context of RDA?
- Practice Brief: Best Practice Recommendations for Building and Measuring Capacity defines four essential components of capacity building and provides an at-a-glance summary of best-practice recommendations for building and measuring capacity.
- Resource List: Tools for Building and Measuring Capacity assists teams with navigating the available tools that help Part B and Part C state and local teams in their efforts to build and measure capacity. The resource list identifies tools and categorizes them according to their intended audience and purpose.

Stay tuned for more from the Systems Change Team!

Partner Resources to Support SSIP Implementation

OSEP Releases Voluntary Self-Assessments to Support States
OSEP developed the State Correctional Education Self-Assessment (SCES) to assist states in self-assessing their systems for providing special education and related services to students with disabilities in correctional facilities. In addition, OSEP released a Part B and Part C Dispute Resolution Self-Assessment to assist states in analyzing their dispute resolution systems.

#RethinkDiscipline Resources
OSERS has hosted a number of events and discussions on school climate and discipline. View the three-part series focused on why it matters, discipline in schools and districts, and discipline in classrooms. In addition, see the conversations with leaders, advocates, experts and others on the OSERS YouTube Channel.

Meet the NCSI Team

Mary Wagner is a principal scientist in SRI International's Center for Education and Human Services. She works primarily in longitudinal studies of children and youth with

CIFR Releases Maintenance of State Financial Support (MFS) Toolkit

The Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting (CIFR) has developed the Maintenance of State Financial Support Toolkit, which contains four tools to help SEAs with MFS: the Quick Reference Guide, the Funding Flow Ideograph Tool, the Timeline Development Tool, and the Data Collection and Reporting Tool. Together, these tools may be used by states to help key stakeholders to better understand the MFS requirements, standardize state MFS data collection and reporting processes, and support the submission of high-quality MFS data. View the toolkit and accompanying videos. Learn more about CIFR on its website.

Finding Evidence-Based Practices: NCII Tools Charts and NTACT Effective Practices and Predictors Matrix

Identifying evidence-based programs and assessments can be challenging. The National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII) and the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) provide resources to support states, districts, and schools in identifying effective practices that meet their needs.

NCII has developed and published a series of interactive tools charts to assist educators and families in becoming informed consumers who can select academic and behavioral progress monitoring tools and interventions that best meet their needs. The four tools charts, Academic Progress Monitoring, Academic Intervention, Behavioral Progress Monitoring and Behavioral Intervention have been updated to include new tools and improved functionality and design. Do you have questions about the charts? Click here to learn more and find additional resources.

NTACT has developed an Effective Practices and Predictors Matrix to review practices and predictors that promote positive postschool outcomes for students with disabilities. Practices and predictors are evaluated on the amount, type, and quality of the research conducted and are labeled as either (a) evidence based, (b) research based, or (c) promising. These designations indicate the confidence one can have in the likely effectiveness of the intervention when implemented as defined and recommended. These descriptors, definitions, and criteria provide additional detail about the levels of evidence. Learn more on the NTACT website.

Assist Families and Others to Be Active

disabilities and experimental evaluations of interventions.

Stephanie Jackson is a managing director at AIR, where she oversees policy, research, and technical assistance projects for Federal, state, and local policymakers.

Both Wagner and Jackson bring years of experience within the field of special education and supporting state and local implementation of interventions and broader systems-change strategies, including multi-tiered systems of support and the use of evidence-based practices.

Learn more about the NCSI leadership team.

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What Is the NCSI Fiscal Support Team?

Did you know that the NCSI has a Fiscal Support Team that can assist SEAs by addressing a wide range of IDEA fiscal questions and concerns in relationship to the development, implementation, and evaluation of the SSIP and other priority areas? The NCSI Fiscal Support Team works closely with CIFR and the IDEA Data Center to address IDEA fiscal issues. The team helps states understand how to leverage fiscal planning to improve outcomes and can assist with analyzing and addressing infrastructure, resource mapping, and policy

Members of Your Decision-Making Groups Using Serving on Groups

Developed by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, and Support (WI FACETS), the Serving on Groups website and guidebook was established to address the need to support families and others in serving on decision-making groups. It was researched, developed, and written collaboratively by a broad stakeholder group of statewide agencies, school representatives, and family members across Wisconsin. The sections to the Guidebook are as follows:

- Section 1: Opportunities to Get Involved
- Section 2: Types of Groups
- Section 3: Processes Groups Use
- Section 4: Tools Groups Use
- Section 5: Tips and Strategies for Groups
- Section 6: Understanding Data
- Section 7: The Role of Families on Groups
- Section 8: Skills for Serving on Groups

View these materials and learn more about Serving on Groups.

State Spotlight

Ohio Explores Effective Coaching Practices to Support Implementation

Decades of research shows that coaching can be an effective mechanism for improving teacher practice and student learning outcomes. As part of its SSIP, Ohio has focused on identifying research-based effective coaching practices, developing a cadre of coaches that uses effective coaching practices, providing professional development on effective coaching strategies, and measuring fidelity of implementation of coaching practices. Learn more about the work in Ohio.

development and implementation questions. If you have a fiscal question, let your NCSI TA Facilitator know or submit an Ask the NCSI request.

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 or 866-664-8471.

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