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

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TA in Action

Systems Leadership Academy: Seeing the Entire State Education System for Intentional Improved and Sustained Student Outcomes

For real and sustained change to occur, it is imperative for state educational agency (SEA) leaders to see how the entire system behaves differently in a variety of local contexts before identifying new ways to work. To this end, a cohort of states (California, Colorado, Michigan, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin), a subset of the Systems Alignment Learning Collaborative, participated in a 3-day Systems Leadership Academy hosted by NCSI, the Texas Comprehensive Center, and the Center for School Turnaround. The Academy provided opportunities to use data visualization as a tool for instigating cross-divisional collaboration within each state's context. State special education leaders teamed with their state general education colleagues to use state system maps, built by the state teams, as the centerpiece to reflect, analyze, identify, and prioritize specific places where cross-divisional collaboration is needed and feasible. Additional information on the Academy and how states are using this approach is forthcoming. If you have any questions on the Academy or the work of the Systems Alignment Learning Collaborative, contact co-leads Jana Rosborough, jrosbor@wested.org or Maura Mall, mmall@wested.org.

What Do Leading by Convening and Implementation Science Have in Common? How Can They Work Together to Support SSIP Implementation?

On November 4, 2016, federal leaders, state leaders, stakeholder groups, and technical assistance (TA) providers participated in a Thought Leader Forum cosponsored by NCSI and the State Implementation & Scaling-up of Evidence-based Practices Center (SISEP) to dialogue and begin to identify commonalities, differences, and critical connections between Leading by Convening and Implementation Science, and to co-create tools to support further dialogue and analysis. Learn more about Leading by Convening and Implementation Science, and stay tuned for resources from this meeting. Do you have thoughts on how these two frameworks connect? Send your ideas to Joanne Cashman, joanne.cashman@nasdse.org.

Do you have a TA question? Don't forget that you can submit a question to Ask the NCSI or your TA Facilitator, or contact NCSI at NCSI@wested.org or 866-664-8471.

NCSI Products and Tools

NCSI's service area teams have continued to develop resources and supports to assist states as they move into Phase III.

SSIP Phase III Process Guide Tool

This SSIP Phase III Process Guide, developed by Early Childhood TA Center (ECTA), the Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy), IDEA Data Center (IDC), and NCSI, includes key considerations and resources to support states in implementing the SSIP and evaluating implementation progress and outcomes. Although this resource was developed with a focus on Part C, the content covered is easily generalized to Part B. View the Web version of the tool.

How Do You Plan and Track Measures of SSIP Implementation?

The Implementation Evaluation Matrix supports states in answering evaluation questions related to SSIP implementation by helping states specify data collection plans and evaluate the implementation of the prioritized activities. Haven't clearly defined your intended activities and evaluation questions? See the Sample SSIP Action Plan Template, a resource for developing a Phase II SSIP improvement and evaluation plan prior to using this matrix.

Evaluating Coaching Effectiveness

Did you know that 74% of those Part B states that indicated that TA was one of their infrastructure components identified coaching as a strategy to implement their SSIPs? Like any other educational innovation, coaching of educators must be used with fidelity to achieve its intended outcomes. The Effective Coaching of Teachers: Fidelity Tool Worksheet and Rubric are intended to collect information about the fidelity of coaching so that this information can be used by coaches and other educators to continuously improve upon how coaching occurs.

During Observation *(To Be Completed by Observer)*

Adherence to Essential Coaching Practice	Yes/No/Not Applicable	Observer Notes		
		Quality of Coaching Practice	Duration or Frequency of Coaching Practice	Responsiveness of Coach to Teacher
Observation: Watching the teacher in the classroom environment use a specific program, intervention, or practice	☐ Yes ☐ No	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
Modeling (also referred to as demonstration): Showing the teacher how to use a specific program, intervention, or practice when the teacher is unfamiliar with the practice or uses the practice incorrectly	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable (NA): modeling was not needed	1 2 3 4 5 OR: NA	1 2 3 4 5 OR: NA	1 2 3 4 5 OR: NA

Mark Your Calendars

- December 2016 OSEP TA Call: December 8, 2016
- OSEP Webinar: ESSA Regulations on Accountability, Data Reporting and State Plans: December 9, 2016 2pm ET
- Joint Federal Programs Meeting, DC, December 12-13, 2016
- Council for Exceptional Children Convention & Expo: April 19-21, 2017
- Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) 2017 Leadership Conference: July, 2017

State Spotlights

Many states have questions about data use and measuring progress. NCSI is developing a series of spotlights to highlight the challenges that states are facing and provide examples of how different states are addressing them.

What Do You Do When Your State Test Data Are Unavailable?

The Tennessee Department of Education faced significant challenges in evaluating and reporting the effects of its first year of SSIP implementation when its state test data became unavailable. Learn how Tennessee is tackling this problem and considerations for states facing similar challenges.

Partner Resources to Support SSIP Implementation

Using MTSS as a Strategy? Listen to the SWIFT Unscripted Podcast

Many states have incorporated multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) as a framework for implementing evidence-based practices as part of their SSIP. SWIFT's most recent podcast in the SWIFT Unscripted series features Dr. Steve Goodman from Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative. Dr. Goodman shares his experience, research, and knowledge about MTSS that blends academic and behavior systems. Click here to listen.

Data Are Important to Everyone! Hear Different Stakeholder Perspectives

DaSy has developed a series of 2- to 3-minute videos that describe some of the ways that key stakeholders are using data in their work to support children with disabilities and their families. You can click on each stakeholder's photo to see a brief video describing her or his firsthand perspective on early childhood data use. View the videos.

Supporting Students with Math Difficulty? View this Series of NCII Videos

This collection of instructional mathematics videos developed by the National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII) is intended to assist special education teachers, interventionists, and others working with students with math difficulty to incorporate the principles for effective math intervention when supporting struggling students. The videos within this series illustrate strategies for instruction and are related to content covered in the Mathematics Sample Lessons and Activities. View the series of videos to support teaching counting and place value concepts. Additional videos will be added to support place value computation and basic facts in the coming months.

Updates from ED

Phase III Guidance and 2017 SPP/APR Package Is Here!

OSEP has released an SSIP Phase III Organizational Report Outline and Evaluation Plan Guidance Tool. These resources are intended to help states as they develop their SSIP Phase III submission, which is due to OSEP on April 3, 2017. The report outline provides an optional template that states can use when writing their Phase III submission, and the guidance tool presents questions for consideration that aim to assist states as they communicate the results of their SSIP implementation activities. In addition, OSEP recently released the 2017 SPP/APR Package documents. Find the Phase III guidance and outline and SPP/APR resources on GRADS360°. Do you have specific questions? Ask your OSEP state lead for an SSIP-specific TA call and reach out to your NCSI TA Facilitator or other OSEP-funded TA Centers for resources and support.

OSEP Releases Toolkit for Improving Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities in Juvenile Corrections

More than 60,000 youth are currently in juvenile correctional facilities, and a large portion of these youth are identified as having a disability, yet less than half report that they are receiving special education services. To protect the rights for these youth and improve their chances of leading positive and successful lives, it is the shared responsibility of states, SEAs, public agencies, and correctional facilities to ensure full access to a free appropriate public education. OSEP developed a toolkit that includes evidence- and research-based practices, tools, and resources that educators, families, facilities, and community agencies can use to better support and improve the long-term outcomes for youth with disabilities in juvenile correctional facilities. View the toolkit.

Early Childhood Privacy and Confidentiality FAQ

OSEP has released a guidance document, Understanding the Confidentiality Requirements Applicable to IDEA Early Childhood Programs Frequently Asked Questions, to assist early childhood programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act with addressing privacy and confidentiality questions.

Do you have suggestions for resources or topics that we can cover in the newsletter? Send them to us at NCSI@wested.org.

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