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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](https://twitter.com/TheNCSI).

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TA in Action

Part B and C Collaboratives Use the Wins and Hiccups Tools to Review Implementation and Plan Next Steps

Members of the Social and Emotional Outcomes (SEO, Part C) and Graduation and Post School Outcomes (GPSO, Part B) Cross-State Learning Collaboratives (CSLC) used NCSI's [Wins and Hiccups: A Collaborative Implementation Problem-Solving Guide for SSIP Teams Tool](#) to reflect on implementation challenges and areas of success within their State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) implementation and evaluation. Prior to the fall convening each SEO CSLC participant was asked to complete a survey monkey version of the questions included in the tool. Onsite each team reviewed the aggregated responses for their states and identified their Wins and Hiccups. In addition, the GPSO CSLC used the [Implementation Strategies and Resource Grid: A Companion Tool to Wins and Hiccups](#) to identify potential strategies that could be applied to offset challenges.

Michigan Part C Team Engage Staff and Stakeholders

In January, the Michigan SSIP Part C team, in collaboration with their Technical Assistance (TA) Facilitator, used [A Quick Chronology of Engagement](#) activity as part of a daylong meeting with stakeholders. Although the SSIP lead already had in-depth knowledge of the work underway, she noted that the 90-minute activity allowed the implementation pilot site teams to recognize how much progress they had made in the past year. Participants celebrated success and discussed ideas for advancing the work to improve social and emotional outcomes. They also recognized a pattern across sites—more local parents were included on their teams.

During the debrief with other states participating in the SEO CSLC, the Michigan team offered some practical strategies to consider when using the tool, such as distributing the one-page instruction sheet ahead of time so teams feel more prepared and can work more efficiently onsite. They also stressed the importance of involving a mix of team members, making sure there are representatives available onsite (or joining virtually, if needed) to generate enough detailed information about the pilot work.

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 continues to develop resources and other supports to assist states during SSIP Phase III.

New Resources to Support Effective Practices for Coaching and Professional Learning

States are implementing a range of professional learning supports (e.g., teacher coaching, systems coaching, training) in an effort to improve outcomes through their SSIP. NCSI has developed a tool [Support Models: Matrix and Discussion Guide for K–12th-Grade Systems](#) to help states match the support provided to the expected outcomes. In addition, NCSI released a [self-paced module](#) focused on four practices coaches can use to improve teaching and student learning: observation, modeling, providing performance feedback, and using alliance-building strategies. A second module (coming soon) addresses how to measure the fidelity of coaching practice to increase the impact it has on teaching and learning. Interested in learning more about coaching and professional learning? Click [here](#) to view additional resources developed by NCSI including infographics, rubrics, tools, and more.

Mark Your Calendars

- [IDC 2018 Interactive Institute—Building a Culture of High-Quality Part B Data—Austin, Texas, March 7–8, 2018](#)
- Stakeholder Engagement Chat: March 9, 2018. Click [here](#) to join. [Learn more and share with colleagues.](#)
- SSIP due April 2, 2018
- [IDEA Fiscal Forum 2018, Atlanta, Georgia, April 24–26, 2018](#)
- [NTACT Capacity Building Institute, Denver, Colorado, May 15–17, 2018](#)
- [OSEP Project Directors Meeting, July 23-25, 2018, Crystal City, VA](#)
- [DaSy Improving Data, Improving Outcomes Conference, Arlington, Virginia, August 14–16, 2018](#)



State Spotlights

How Can States Use Fidelity Tools to Improve Data Quality?

States often find it difficult to access high-quality data from local educational agencies and early intervention service providers. In a review of SSIPs, 72 percent of Part B states and 78 percent of Part C states noted limitations or concerns related to data quality. Often, this challenge is the result of a lack of

fidelity to the data collection process. This spotlight shares how three states (Iowa, Wyoming and Colorado) used three different approaches to data fidelity tools to improve data quality. [Learn more about strategies for improving data quality here.](#)

Alabama Supports SSIP Pilot Sites to Scale Up Goals!

Through their SSIP and State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), Alabama is focusing on improving postschool outcomes for students with disabilities by working to increase student engagement and improve academic performance. The state developed a network of demonstration sites to help support the scale-up of these practices. Alabama's SSIP work has generated some exciting results. For example, nearly 88 percent of students with disabilities in middle school demonstration sites saw gains on progress monitoring, surpassing a benchmark goal of 45 percent. [Learn more about Alabama's strategies for success here.](#)

Partner Resources to Support SSIP Implementation

Telling Your SSIP Story in an Infographic: Strategies, Tips, and Examples

The Center for IDEA Early Childhood Data Systems (DaSy), NCSI, and the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) developed a quick guide describing how you can use infographics to communicate about the SSIP as a tool to engage stakeholders. This resource includes general guidance about infographics, a template/example focused on the SSIP, and a series of state-specific infographics that have been developed. View this resource [here](#). Are you interested in developing an infographic? Reach out to your NCSI TA facilitator or submit a question to [Ask the NCSI](#).

Key Differences Between IDEA Local Educational Agency Maintenance of Effort and Excess Cost Requirements

The Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting (CIFR) and NCSI developed a six-page document to address the two separate requirements under IDEA to ensure local educational agencies are funding special education programs sufficiently: maintenance of effort and excess cost. The resource describes key differences between the requirements and the methods for calculating compliance with each separate requirement. View this resource [here](#).

Brief and Upcoming Webinars Focused on Using Local Assessment Data to Measure Progress toward the State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR)

The National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) recently released a [brief](#) and will soon host a two-part webinar series focused on key strategies for the collection, analysis, and use of local assessment data to monitor progress toward the SIMR. The webinars will review the strategies shared in the brief (webinar 1) and share state experiences and lessons learned (webinar 2). To find the [brief](#) and information about the webinars visit the [NCEO website](#).

Updates from ED

The Department of Education Welcomes Johnny Collett as the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Assistant Secretary

The U.S. Department of Education welcomed Johnny Collett, the new U.S. Department of Education assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), on January 16, 2018. [Learn more.](#)

Question & Answer on U.S. Supreme Court Case Decision: *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District Re-1*

To provide information and guidance to parents, school personnel, and other stakeholders following the *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District Re-1*, 137 S. Ct. 988 U.S. Supreme Court Decision, the U.S.

Department of Education released a question & answer (Q&A) document that clarifies the case and shares considerations for implementation, including how to determine if individualized education program annual goals are appropriate and how to ensure that students have the chance to meet challenging objectives. The Q&A document can be found [here](#). If you are interested in commenting on this document or have additional questions, please send them to OSERS by e-mail at AndrewF@ed.gov.

Registration Open: Project Directors' Conference

OSEP's Project Directors' Conference will be held July 23, 2018, to July 25, 2018, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, 1700 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202. Registration is now open. View the registration and stay up to date [here](#).

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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