

May 17, 2018

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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).

NCSI said goodbye to our friend and colleague, Diana Blackmon, who passed away in April as a result of lung cancer. She was an extraordinary TA provider, committed to the success of each state's efforts to improve outcomes for children and youth with disabilities, and she will be missed for years to come.

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TA in Action

State Leaders, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Staff, and NCSI Collaborate to Develop New General Supervision Resource for States

On April 16 and 17, Part B leaders from state education agencies in seven states (Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Wisconsin), OSEP leadership and staff from the Research to Practice and Monitoring and State Improvement Planning divisions, and NCSI representatives gathered in Washington, D.C. to discuss efforts at the state and federal levels to design and implement results driven accountability (RDA) systems. The group explored strategies for leveraging all aspects of general supervision systems to support adherence to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements as well as improve outcomes for children and youth with disabilities. The group also worked together to craft a new resource for states' Part B and Part C programs, designed to help evaluate general supervision activities related to IDEA's compliance and results goals, and identify opportunities for improvement. The interest in such a resource grew from NCSI's Part B and Part C Results Based Accountability (RBA) Cross-State Learning Collaboratives. States in both collaboratives will continue to refine the resource over the summer with the goal of ultimately sharing it with all states later this year. To learn more, please contact the leads of the Part B RBA Collaborative (Susan Hayes,

shayes@wested.org and Anne Louise Thompson, althomp@wested.org) or the leads of the Part C RBA Collaborative (Virginia Reynolds, vreynol@wested.org and Ardith Ferguson, afergus@wested.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 continues to develop resources and other supports to assist states during State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase III.

Managing the Implementation Dip

Michael Fullan, in *Leading in Culture of Change* (2007), defines the **implementation dip** as “a dip in performance and confidence as one encounters an innovation that requires new skills and new understandings.” Within SSIP implementation, states may experience implementation dips because of deficiencies in their implementation plan, implementation management, progress data, or implementation momentum. This tool from NCSI provides questions and recommended practices to help states and their stakeholders address implementation dips. [View the tool.](#)

Tools to Improve Stakeholder Engagement: The Engagement Playbook and Grounding Assumptions

NCSI and partners have developed tools to support the engagement of stakeholders through complex systems change.

- [The Engagement Playbook](#) toolkit, developed by NCSI and the Center for School Turnaround, is built on the intersections between [Leading by Convening](#) and the [Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement](#) with a goal of bringing together decision-makers and everyone responsible for implementing school improvement efforts to build a better, more sustainable approach to local improvement. [View the toolkit](#)
- [Grounding Assumptions: Uncovering Beliefs and Biases that Impact Stakeholder Engagement](#) was developed to help state agencies explore how beliefs can advance or constrain deeper stakeholder engagement. The Grounding Assumptions packet includes all the resources needed to implement the activity, including a user's guide, facilitation materials, and more. [View the Grounding Assumptions Tools.](#)

Measuring Children's Developmental Progress: Perspectives of State Early Intervention and Early Childhood Coordinators and TA Facilitators

This report shares results and recommendations from a series of focused conversations on child assessment with 31 Part C and Part B 619 program state representatives and NCSI TA facilitators. Conversations focused on how state early intervention and early childhood programs use measures, tools, and other assessment approaches to gather information about children's developmental progress and to learn about the challenges associated with selecting, administering, and using these measures. [View the full report.](#)

Mark Your Calendars

- [National Center for Educational Outcomes \(NCEO\) Webinar on Local Assessment Data, May 22, 2018, 4pm ET](#)
- Stakeholder Engagement Chats: June 8, 2018. Click [here](#) to join. [Learn more and share with colleagues.](#)
- [OSEP Monthly TA Call, June 14, 2018](#)



- [IDEA Data Center \(IDC\) Webinar: Back-to-Basics on Meeting IDEA Section 616 Public Reporting Requirements. June 12, 2018 3:00-4:00pm](#)
 - [OSEP Project Directors' Meeting. July 23-25, 2018. Crystal City, VA](#)
 - [DaSy Improving Data, Improving Outcomes Conference. Arlington, Virginia, August 14–16, 2018](#)
 - *Save the Date*: Part C Cross State Learning Collaborative Face to Face Event September 24-26, 2018, Scottsdale, AZ
 - *Save the Date*: Part B Cross State Learning Collaborative Face to Face Event October 23-24, 2018, Phoenix AZ.
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State Spotlights

NCSI has developed a series of spotlights featuring the work of states across the country as they implement, evaluate, and scale their SSIPs. Spotlights cover the tools and strategies states use to measure fidelity; improve their systems; scale SSIP goals; improve communication with stakeholders; implement evidence-based practices through systems coaches; maximize funds; and more. View the full series [here](#) and stay tuned for additional spotlights in the coming months. If you would like to be spotlighted, contact us at NCSI@wested.org.

Partner Resources to Support SSIP Implementation

Identifying the Right TA Center to Support Part C & Part B 619 Needs

OSEP has funded six national TA Centers to respond to requests for TA from state Part C & Part B 619 agencies. Do you have questions about which TA Center supports which activities? Need help determining who to contact? Early Childhood IDEA Centers On Call, developed by the six TA Centers, helps states better understand the content focus of the six TA Centers so you can find the support that best matches your needs. [Learn more](#).

New and Updated Websites to Support Intensive Intervention and Literacy

The National Center on Intensive Intervention (NCII) recently released an updated version of its website, www.intensiveintervention.org, to help users more easily find tools and resources to support intensive intervention implementation. The site now includes pages targeting state and local leaders, educators, higher education faculty, and trainers and coaches and a section spotlighting lessons learned from research and implementation. In addition, the National Center for Improving Literacy (NCIL) released the [KidZone!](#) This new site allows students to listen to audio and video books, play literacy apps and games, and read books at their level. It also features Adventures in Reading, the Kid Zone! exclusive comic book that features Kayla, a student with dyslexia as she navigates through school and overcomes challenges in reading. In addition, the site is a place where families can connect with each other.

Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) Practice Guide Prepares States and LEAs to Track CEIS Funds and Students

This resource from Center for IDEA Fiscal Reporting (CIFR) and the IDC can be used to support states and local educational agencies (LEA) to document funds and children served through the implementation of coordinated early intervening services (CEIS). The resource describes how the LEA or state under various scenarios could track the amount an LEA reserved for voluntary or comprehensive CEIS; the activities conducted using IDEA funds for voluntary or comprehensive CEIS; the target group of children; and ongoing child-level data about special education identification. [View the resource](#).

Updates from ED

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) Seeks Feedback

OSERS is looking for input from the public, particularly state educational agencies and state lead agencies, on how best to provide TA to states on the collection and reporting of data required under Part B, Section 618 and Section 616, of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including input on the most effective and efficient method of funding this TA. [Share your feedback by commenting on the blog post by May 24, 2018.](#)

OSERS is also looking for input on the portfolio of grants supported under the [Rehabilitation Training Program](#)—specifically those supported under the Rehabilitation Long-Term Training, Rehabilitation Short-Term Training, and Innovative Rehabilitation Training authorities—to determine whether the activities funded under the Rehabilitation Training Program are aligned with the goals of the department and the needs of state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies. Submitted information will be used to determine whether any changes are needed in designing and implementing grant activities under this program, including the specific mix of activities supported each year. [Click here to provide your feedback before July 3, 2018.](#)

Are you a Project Director for an OSEP-Funded Investment? Register Today for the OSEP Project Directors' Conference

From July 23-25, 2018 OSEP will hold the project directors' conference at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington Virginia. This conference is intended to bring together project directors and additional grantee staff of OSEP investments, OSEP and U.S. Department of Education staff, and OSEP doctoral scholars with a goal of sharing important information with grantees to better their work. The conference also provides a forum for grantees to interact and discuss current topics, goals, and strategies. Click here to [register](#) and find more information about the conference including the [agenda](#), [lodging information](#), and [presenter information](#) at <https://osepideasthatwork.org/osep-meeting/2018-project-directors-conference>.

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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