



Connecting you with updates and resources
to help drive results for students with disabilities

Dear Readers,

October is a big month for bringing national attention to people with disabilities! Along with friends, families, and colleagues, NCSI is happy to recognize ADHD Awareness Month, Blindness Awareness Month, Disability Awareness Month, Disability Employment Awareness Month, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, Dyslexia Awareness Month, Learning Disability Month, and Principal Appreciation Month. Whew! That is a lot of recognition — all of which matters and is important, from my perspective. Please take a moment to be intentional in thinking about how you can be purposeful in celebrating the individuals in your life who are being lifted up through these national awareness campaigns, and I'd encourage you to also think about what you are doing to interrupt inequity for one or more of these groups of individuals. (That's a charge I am giving myself each day right now.)

In recognition of this important time of year, this NCSI Networker points you to some specific resources we think are helpful. The Book Study in a Box and the Fast Five focus on exploring systems coherence. The podcasts highlighted include new episodes as well as a resource from our archives focused on data literacy with an equity mindset.

Finally, I'd like to celebrate that I and several of my NCSI teammates, plus a couple of TA partners, and guest participant, OSEP Director Valerie Williams, took a trip to Guam this month as NCSI hosted The Pacific Entities Learning Collaborative Convening. We engaged with teams from each of the six Entities to support the planning, implementation, and continuous improvement of special education programs in the Pacific. I am grateful for the hospitality shown to us while in the Islands, and for the deep commitment to action shown by the folks we worked with while there, as well as to each of you reading this newsletter, for what you do every day to promote and support success for our nation's children and youth with disabilities.



Rorie Fitzpatrick
Director, NCSI

Featured Resources



Systems Coherence

A Professional Book Study on Coherence: The Right Drivers in



Action for Schools, Districts, and Systems

This [Book Study in a Box](#) can support state education agencies (SEAs), local education agencies (LEAs), and schools interested in engaging in professional learning related to the importance of systems coherence for improving outcomes. The collection of resources includes a [Facilitator Guide](#), a [Facilitator Implementation Guide](#), and a [Participant Packet](#) to complement and help conduct a study of the book **Coherence: The Right Drivers in Action for Schools, Districts, and Systems**, by Michael Fullan and Joanne Quinn (2016, Corwin Press).

Five Drivers of Coherence in State General Supervision Systems

The goal of developing a coherent general supervision system is to intentionally coordinate all activities to ensure the requirements of IDEA are being met while also improving outcomes for all students with disabilities. Building on Fullan and Quinn’s book, this [Fast Five](#) applies the four coherence drivers along with the importance of leadership to the work of general supervision and explores how to strengthen the connective tissue between the system’s components.

Podcast Corner

General Soup – Episode 4: Pursuing Equity and Moving Beyond a Compliance-Driven Approach to Addressing Disproportionality

[Episode 4](#) of NCSI’s *General Soup* focuses on a critical responsibility and priority of state general supervision systems—disrupting disproportionality or the overidentification of certain groups of students, particularly Black students and other students of color, for special education services and disciplinary action. Join hosts Susan Hayes and Sara Doutré for this rich and important conversation with guests David Lopez and John Jacobs. David and John also share [helpful related resources](#). Listen to episode 4 and the other podcasts in this series on [NCSI’s General Soup Podbean station](#) or wherever you stream podcasts.



From the Archives

What are the questions about racial equity in our education systems that could be transformative if answered? Visit the [Data Literacy with an Equity Mindset](#) tool to read the responses provided by national experts related to disproportionality, inclusive practices, educator recruitment, meaningful family and student engagement, and more.



TA in Action

NCSI provided on-site TA in Guam!

On October 3rd through the 7th, NCSI headed to Guam for its Pacific Entities Collaborative Convening! State directors and their teams attended an in-person convening to network and collaborate across the Pacific Entities, TA Providers, and OSEP. This convening supported the planning, implementation, and continuous improvement of special education programs to ensure compliance with IDEA and improve student outcomes.



Learn more about this event from [Micronesia's leading newspaper Mariana's](#)



Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Events

- **October 19 (TOMORROW!): TLC Webinar Session 4: Research-Informed Practice**, 1–2:30 p.m. ET [Register for Session 4.](#)
- **November 30 – TLC Webinar Session 5: Systems Coherence**, 1–2:30 p.m. ET [Register for sessions 5](#)

This October NCSI acknowledges:

- Disability Awareness Month
- ADHD Awareness Month
- Blindness Awareness Month
- Learning Disability Awareness Month
- Disability Employment Awareness Month
- National Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- Dyslexia Awareness Month

NCSI acknowledges and honors the different communities of people with disabilities and their families that dedicate this month to create awareness about the value of diversity, but also the need to address inequality. If you are looking for a visual, we have created this flyer that is available for [free download here](#).



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