NCSI national center for systemic improvement | **NET WORKER** Connecting you with updates and resources to help drive results for students with disabilities
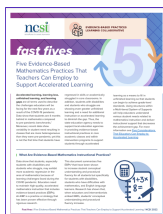
Dear Readers,

Coming off all the hubbub about the Oscars recently, I've been ruminating on the idea of "Everything, everywhere, all at once". And I got to thinking that sometimes that is how it feels to try to lead as a special education director or staff member at a state education agency! Doing so many things with and for so many people at the same time (inside and external to the agency), with a shared goal for students but sometimes with different visions of how to get there. You are going hard in rolling out and supporting lots of initiatives, responding to legislative session requests (for states right now), gearing up for OSEP's DMS visits (in some cases sooner than later), and the list goes on!

At NCSI, we are busy gearing up to engage with your state teams at the upcoming Cross-State Learning Collaboratives Convening. We are focusing on how to support you in leading with success as you refine and implement general supervision systems and as you strategically allocate and deploy messaging and resources to promote the use of effective evidence-based practices. The mission is hard. But the mission is possible! In the meantime, we've curated some resources that we think would be helpful as you continue to do everything, everywhere, and all at once.

Rorie Fitzpatrick
Director, NCSI

Featured Resources

Evidence-Based Practices

To help states support their local education agencies (LEAs) in addressing the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and gaps that existed prior to the pandemic, the Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Systems Transformation Priority released two Fast Five guidance documents focused on accelerating learning. Accelerating learning is a method to reduce gaps in skill mastery, connect previous grade-level skills with current grade-level standards, and support students, including students with disabilities, in achieving grade-level standards. Five Considerations That Educators Can Employ for Accelerating Learning reviews considerations and ideas that can help LEAs plan for and implement strategies to accelerate learning. Five Evidence-Based Mathematics Practices That Teachers Can Employ to Support Accelerated Learning focuses on key evidence-based practices to consider within math instruction.

Results-Based Accountability

The Results-Based Accountability & Support (RBAS)) Systems Transformation Priority produced two Fast Fives. Five State Strategies to Effectively Communicate and Reinforce IDEA Compliance Requirements outlines strategies state education agencies (SEAs) can use to effectively communicate and reinforce Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) requirements for LEAs and other interested parties. These strategies highlight how policies and procedures, technical assistance, and professional learning are critical components of state monitoring activities. Five Ways to Effectively Use Dispute Resolution Data in State General Supervision Systems to Improve Implementation of IDEA offers strategies for effectively using the data generated by a

state dispute resolution system to improve its implementation of the IDEA, the health of its general supervision system, and LEA practices.

Podcast Corner

General Soup – Episode 5: Integrating Fiscal and Program Planning

In Episode 5: Integrating Fiscal and Program Planning of NCSI's "*General Soup* podcast, Bryan Klimkiewicz and Tom Boudreau from the Connecticut Department of Education talks about their efforts to better integrate fiscal and program planning. The hosts discuss Bryan and Tom's leadership in ensuring that fiscal investments are responsive to student needs and create supports that can be sustained over time. This episode also highlights CIFR's and NCSI's resources to support states in meeting and communicating fiscal requirements as well as intentional resource allocation.

Pursuing Equity

Did you know that NCSI provided a five-session thought leader conversation (TLC) webinar series on *Pursuing Equity at the Intersection of Language, Culture, and Disability* that focused on elevating equity in opportunity and achievement for students with disabilities, or who may have disabilities, and who are English learners? All recorded sessions and associated resources can now be found on our 2022 TLC webpage.

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Events

- NCSI's Cross-State Learning Collaborative (CSLC) In-Person Spring 2023 Convening will be hosted in Portland, Oregon, this year on May 3 and 4. NCSI's CSLCs actively engage in collaborative information sharing and problem-solving with colleagues from across SEAs to support planning, implementation, and continuous improvement of initiatives that lead to improved outcomes for students with disabilities.
- The 2023 Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Conference returns in person, and NCSI will be in attendance! OSEP will hold a combined Leadership and Project Directors' Conference July 24–26, 2023, in Arlington, Virginia. The theme of this year's conference, *Connect, Collaborate. Change: The Power of Us*, allows for creative approaches to information dissemination and audience engagement.

Updates from ED

OSEP Director Valerie Williams has recently announced a new initiative to improve secondary outcomes for students with disabilities. The initiative is titled ***Expect, Engage, and Empower: Successful Transitions for All!*** The initiative is intended to challenge the field to raise expectations to significantly improve postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities. The initiative places an emphasis on engaging families earlier and empowering all individuals who support secondary transition services. OSEP grantees and others will be invited to a kickoff event to be announced in the coming weeks.

Social Media Corner. Let's get social!

In addition to the ones mentioned in this *Networker*, NCSI has a series of Fast Five resources that provide easy and relevant information on diverse topics of interest for SEAs. Our most recent social media campaign highlights the Five State Strategies to Effectively Communicate and Reinforce IDEA Compliance Requirements by breaking it

into a five-part online discussion. Click on #NCSIFastFives (link
to https://twitter.com/hashtag/NCSIFastFives) to join this and upcoming conversations.
Let's get social!

Follow us on Twitter   Visit Our Website   Join Us in LinkedIn