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Transforming State Systems to
Improve Outcomes for Children
with Disabilities

State Education Agency Leadership to Improve Outcomes for K-12 Students with Disabilities

A national perspective on the implementation of
State Systemic Improvement Plans (SSIPs)

Rorie Fitzpatrick, WestEd, NCSI Director | 08.08.2017

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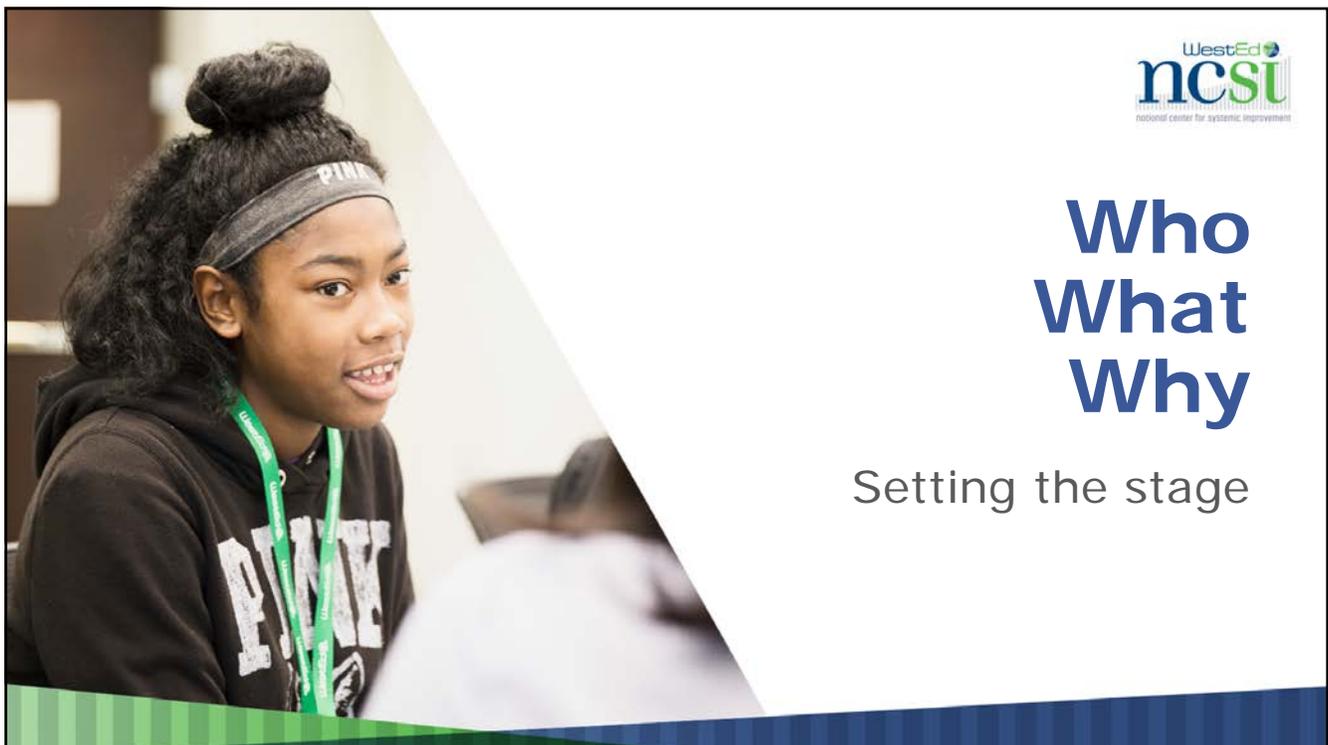
Who
What
Why

Setting the stage

Priorities for Student Improvement State-Identified Measureable Results (SIMRs)

Graduation – 13 states
– Region 2: DC, GA, NC, WV | Region 3: FL

Reading/ELA – 34 states
– Region 2: DE, SC, TN, WA | Region 3: AR, LA, MS, OK, TX, VI,

Math – 7 states
– Region 2: KY, MD | Region 3: PR

Reading *and* Math – 2 states
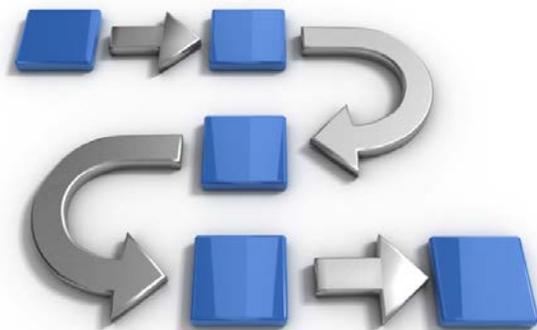
Early Childhood Outcomes – 2 states

Post-school Outcomes – 2 states
– Region 3: AL

How states are working to improve student outcomes

- Analyzing and using data to determine priorities

- Assessing systems and improving infrastructure

- Identifying, selecting, and implementing Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs)

- Evaluating implementation

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SSIP Evidence-Based Practices Across the Country

- Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Dropout prevention
- Inclusive practices

- Culturally/linguistically effective instruction
- Transition services
- Early warning systems
- DEC recommended practices
- Connections with adult service providers

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Actions to support implementation of EBPs

- Job-embedded support systems for educators (coaches, mentors, professional learning leaders)
- State level implementation teams
- Systems to collect and use data about implementation practices
- Regional/local TA teams to support local providers
- Strengthening organizational structures, policies, resources
- Establishing communication protocols for sharing info. up, down, & across stakeholders

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Thinking about Stakeholder Engagement Along a Continuum

- Informing → Sharing/dissemination, one-way communication

- Networking → Exchanging, two-way communication

- Collaborating → Engaging, working on the issue together over time

- Transforming → Committing, approaching issues through engagement and consensus building

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The Engagement Continuum as Applied to SSIP Implementation

- Degrees of engagement are varied across the country

- Perspectives vary on degrees of meaningful stakeholder engagement
  - Your lens impacts your version of the truth

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Common State Approaches to SSIP Stakeholder Engagement

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- In-person meetings
- Virtual convenings
- Website posting
- Newsletters
- Infographics

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States Plans to Improve SSIP Implementation

- Improving parent and family stakeholder engagement
- Developing strategies to ensure quality data collection
- Aligning SSIPs and State Personnel Development Grants (SPDGs)
- Offering professional learning
- Engaging external SSIP evaluators
- Conducting district-level needs assessments

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Barriers States Anticipate for Continued SSIP Implementation

- Insufficient funds and/or other resources to support EBPs
- Personnel shortages, staff turnover, and personnel capacity
- Insufficient systems alignment within state agencies and/or with and within other infrastructures
- Communication and collaboration challenges
- Technology challenges
- Competing obligations
- Data access and data quality

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More information:

ncsi.wested.org

ncsi@wested.org

@TheNCSI

Thank you!

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