

The IDEA Partnership

National Association of State Directors of Special Education
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Title: Annual Meeting of The National Community of Practice on NCLB/IDEA Collaboration

Radisson Hotel
Arlington, VA
December 4-6, 2006

Sponsor: name & contact information, & website

This meeting was co-sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the IDEA Partnership at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE).

Meeting coordinators:
CCSSO: Tolani Adeboye
Website: <http://www.ccsso.org>

IDEA Partnership: Joanne Cashman and Patrice Linehan
Website: <http://www.ideapartnership.org>

Purpose

Community members want to learn with and from each other to meet the needs of struggling learners by working across special education and Title I to implement both NCLB and IDEA. This year the national meeting focused on implementing Response-to-Intervention (RTI) and Early Intervening Services (EIS) within the broader frame of School Improvement under NCLB.

Event description

The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and NASDSE's IDEA Partnership invited state teams to participate in the annual meeting of the *NCLB/IDEA Collaboration Community*. This community meets annually during December in the DC area to ensure maximum opportunity for interaction with our federal partners.

The *Community* is composed of 20 states, 19 national organizations and an array of technical assistance providers that want to learn with and from each other to

meet the needs of struggling learners by working across special education and Title I to implement both NCLB and IDEA. This year the national meeting focused on implementing Response-to-Intervention (RTI) and Early Intervening Services (EIS) within the broader frame of School Improvement under NCLB.

- To accomplish this, the *Community* focuses on the barriers to understanding and alignment that must be addressed. We do this by bringing state teams with designated participation by Special Education, Title I, School Improvement and local/family level representation.

As OSEP's investment in stakeholder expertise, the IDEA Partnership is working to unite those who have shared interests. At the National Community Meeting, the participants heard about the new imperative for collaboration from Alexa Posny (Director, Office of Special Education Programs) and Zollie Stevenson, Jr. (Deputy Director, Office of Student Achievement and School Accountability). Greg Roberts (Director of the Special Education Strand within The National Content Center on Instruction) outlined the issues for each session. Larry Wexler (OSEP) presented new opportunities for collaboration available through 2004 provisions for early intervening services. Reactor Panels representing various stakeholder roles stimulated dialogue. Vibrant roundtable conversations detailed the more subtle and human aspects of EIS and RTI. Most importantly, states had time for reflection and planning for their state initiatives to integrate IDEA and School Improvement under NCLB.

In follow-up to the national meeting, the *Community* prioritizes issues of importance and supports the state teams through monthly *Learning Calls* to share promising approaches across states and *Dialogue Calls* to discuss emerging issues and persistent problems of implementation. As a result of the relationship building at this year's meeting, the calls will be planned and conducted with a range of TA providers in special and general education that are charged to support the states.

The following federal agencies are participating and collaborating in planning:

- Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
- Student Achievement and School Accountability (SASA)
- Inspector General (CAROI Initiative – Cooperative Audit Resolution-Title I/School Improvement)

The following states participated in the Community Meeting:

CO, DC, KS, LA, MD, MI, MN, NC, NH, PA, VT, WI, WY

10 other states could not attend the onsite meeting but continue to work with the *Community* to advance their state goals.

The following national organizations in the IDEA Partnership will participate and work with their membership to share common messages:

- American Association of School Administrators (AASA)
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA)
- American School Counselor Association (ASCA)
- American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA)
- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)
- Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO)
- Higher Education Consortium of Special Education (HECSE)
- Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)
- National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)
- National Association of Pupil Service Administrators (NAPSA)
- National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
- National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)
- National Association of Title I Directors (NASTID)
- National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
- National Education Association (NEA)
- National Fiesta Educativa
- School Social Worker Association of America (SSWAA)

The following TA providers are participating to align worksopes, avoid duplication and share in addressing the unmet needs of states:

- ACCESS Center
- Content Comprehensive Centers on High Schools
- Content Comprehensive Centers on Instruction
- IRIS Center for Faculty Enhancement
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Part B Community of Practice
- National Center for Culturally Responsive Educational Systems (NCCRESt)
- National Center for Educational Outcomes (NCEO)
- National Research Center on Learning Disabilities (NCRLD)
- Progress Monitoring Center
- Project Forum
- Regional Comprehensive Centers
- Regional Resource and Federal Centers (RRFC) Network
- The Alliance and PTACS: The National Technical Assistance Center for State Parent Centers and the Regional Technical Assistance Centers for State Parent Centers

Outcomes

- The participants worked together to compile community-wide needs and resources (as well as some upcoming activities and resources). Please contact patrice.linehan@nasdse.org for more information.
- A *State Dialogue Guide to Build Understanding, Commitment and Strategy* document was used to stimulate dialogue around issues that should be explored across bureaus in the State Education Agency (SEA), with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and with major stakeholder groups. The document was used by the state teams for gathering critical insights and understanding multiple perspectives in addressing the role of Response-to-Intervention and Early Intervening Service provisions of IDEA 2004. For a copy of the tool, please contact patrice.linehan@nasdse.org.
- Data Systems and Data Resources was a topic for the first Learning Call based on an identified community need. On January 25, 2007, Tolani Adeboye led a Learning Call with community members on the topic of Data Systems. For a copy of the presentation slides, please contact Tolani Adeboye at tolania@ccsso.org.
- Practice Groups (PG) were formed around four topics and a collaborative workspace was set up so that all community members can continue the work that began onsite. The practice group topics that will be forming soon are listed below. For more information, please contact Tolani Adeboye or Patrice Linehan at the email addresses listed above.
 - Early Intervening Services
 - Focus on Instruction
 - Response-to-Intervention
 - State-to-State

What's next:

Community members will participate in learning calls and dialogue calls throughout the year. Community identified topics will be generated during dialogue and learning calls based on the needs of the community members.

Working as a *Community* in the year ahead we hope to:

- understand the role that Title I can play in tiered intervention systems
- articulate the conditions that will impact collaboration across Title I and IDEA
- promote promising approaches to new collaborations
- strengthen an infrastructure for sharing the ongoing work in states
- build on our prior experiences in learning with federal agencies and federal investments as partners in the *Community*

- create opportunities to develop common messages that can be supported by an array of national organizations that work as partners in the *Community*
- develop collaborative relationships with an array of technical assistance providers that serve the states

Where to go for more information – project contact information

For additional information, please contact **Patrice Linehan** at the IDEA

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