

The IDEA Partnership

National Association of State Directors of Special Education
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 320
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

1-877-IDEA-INFo (1-877-433-2463) email: partnership@nasdse.org



Title: IDEA Partnership Meeting, August 2007

Sponsor: IDEA Partnership @ NASDSE,
Contact: Joanne Cashman, Director
Website: <http://www.ideapartnership.org>

Event: IDEA Partnership Meeting

Purpose:

The Partnership meeting was focused on discussing how the Partnership will interact with each other and OSEP in Year 5 of the Partnership project. The essential question was: What collaborative activities/actions would the organizations commit to in year 5 to further the engagement with others at the national, State and local levels?

Event description:

IDEA Partnership Meeting was held August 7-8, 2007 at the Holiday Inn on the Hill, 415 New Jersey Avenue, Washington, DC. The Partnership meeting was held prior to the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Leadership Meeting, which began the afternoon of August 8 and ended August 10, 2007. The OSEP theme and title was *IDEA AND NCLB – Working Together.*

Based on our growing interconnections with OSEP work, each national organization in the IDEA Partnership was invited to send a representative to the OSEP Leadership Meeting. This meeting is typically attended by state leaders, the parent training information centers and the technical assistance providers. This year the national organizations will also have a presence and may be asked to demonstrate some of the collaborative work.

After a brief discussion of the OSEP vision for the partnership, organizations shared activities they had undertaken to advance the partnership. Partner workgroup leaders unveiled two new collaborative collections on the IDEA Partnership website: **Dialogue Guides for IDEA 2004 Regulations** (<http://www.ideapartnership.org/page.cfm?pageid=16>) and the **Partnership Collection on RTI** (<http://www.ideapartnership.org/page.cfm?pageid=17>). Table talk ensued around ways to promote and use these new tools. The third collection, the **Partnership Collection on Communities of Practice** (<http://www.ideapartnership.org/page.cfm?pageid=56>) (CoP), was presented by Joanne Cashman as tools for States and organizations that use the CoP model as they engage others in their work.

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Rich Barbacane led the final discussion, which provided the details surrounding the planning for the **National Summit on RTI**, slated for early December 2007.

Drawing on the critical connections that partners have made to their organizations and leveraging the reach that existing networks have, OSEP is adopting a stakeholder focus for the RTI Summit. OSEP began the planning by creating a planning team that includes many of the stakeholder groups in the IDEA Partnership. The planning team affirmed the importance of state-based efforts and encouraged a Summit design that would engage both the state education agency and the state affiliates of national organizations.

What's next?

Organizational representatives in the IDEA Partnership proposed new activities that each would embark upon in Year 5 to further the impact of the IDEA Partnership. Their work included transformational, collaborative, networking and informational activities. Their ideas can be found in the *Partner Commitment to Levels of Engagement & Impact* document.

Resources:

Agenda

<http://ideapartnership.org/documents/Partnership-Agenda-Final.doc>

IDEA Partnership Activities March – August 2007

<http://ideapartnership.org/documents/IDEA-Partnership-Activities.doc>

Table Talk Discussions – Feedback with Partners

<http://ideapartnership.org/documents/table-talk-feedback.doc>

Partner Commitment to Levels of Engagement & Impact

<http://ideapartnership.org/documents/Organizational-Levels-engagement.doc>