



STATE SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SSIP) NEWSLETTER

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May 2016 to July 2016

The state reached several of its planned SSIP milestones over the past quarter. We were recently informed by the Office of Special Education Programs that the state’s SSIP Phase II state level plan was approved! This state-level plan, included:

- ✓ A strategy to scale-up and sustain social emotional practices
- ✓ An evaluation plan
- ✓ Our timeline for implementation

The approval of Phase II signifies the official completion of our Development Phase. Inside this issue you will find more information on Phase III – Implementation and Evaluation.

Another important milestone was to establish a statewide improvement and quality assurance system. Stakeholders and staff worked diligently on creating a pilot process and making revisions to the process based on results of the pilot to make a statewide quality assurance system a reality.

This system will serve as a foundation to SSIP activities related to evidence based practices and early child outcome ratings.

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Review of Our Priorities

As part of the SSIP, each state was required to develop a result statement describing the state’s focus area for improvement. This statement is called a State-identified Measurable Result (SiMR). Idaho’s SiMR is: “to increase the percentage of infants and toddlers with disabilities who

leave the program with progress made in social-emotional development.”

Below is a list of activities by strategy area. These activities represent milestones that the state intends to complete in order to achieve our targeted result.

Early Childhood Outcome (ECO) Practices

- Develop and deliver trainings related to ECOs in phases
- Modify the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) to embed ECOs
- Modify the ECO rating process

Monitoring and Accountability

- Develop a standardized QA/QI process
- Develop inter-rater reliability tools and process for ECO scoring
- Develop tools and processes to measure fidelity of practices

Professional Development

- Select social-emotional assessment tools
- Develop training to address social-emotional evidence based practices
- Build infrastructure to support scaling up of evidence based practices

Demonstration Site Activity

Regions 1, 2, and 3 were selected as the pilot programs, or demonstration sites, for the SSIP. The role of the demonstration sites is to oversee the implementation process, build communication and feedback loops, prepare trainers/coaches, and develop a local level plan for putting practices in place.

Over the past quarter, the demonstration sites have created, submitted and had their local level plans approved.

The creation of these local level Action Plans included:

- forming implementation teams
- developing steps to implement activities
- identifying staff responsibilities
- establishing timelines for implementation

Demonstration sites have begun to meet as implementation teams and with the SSIP State Team to explore resources, and timelines for the change process.

While developing and implementing their Action Plans, demonstration sites are currently focusing on activities related to ECO Practices and Monitoring and Accountability.



Phase III – Implementation and Evaluation

The SSIP is moving into the Implementation and Evaluation phase of the project. The Implementation and Evaluation phase includes a specific set of activities that occur over time in stages. These stages may overlap and may be revisited over time.

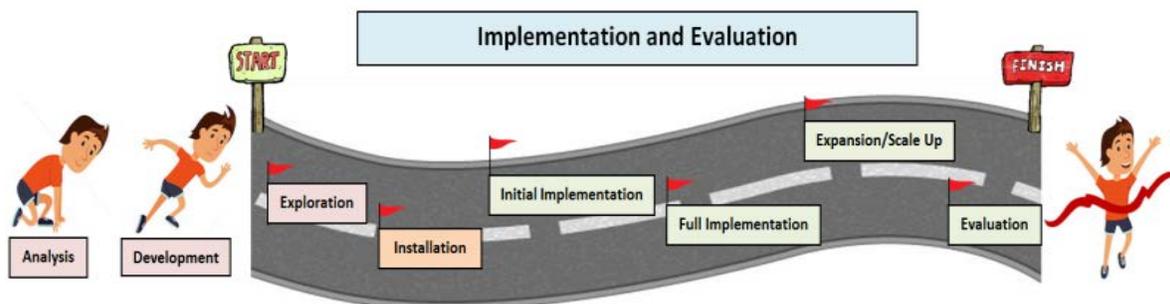
Phase III is broken into 5 stages:

- ✓ Stage 1: Exploration
- ✓ Stage 2: Installation
- ✓ Stage 3: Initial Implementation
- ✓ Stage 4: Full Implementation
- ✓ Stage 5: Expansion/Scale-up

We are currently beginning activities related to the Installation stage. The Installation stage is all about creating a foundation and system capacity for implementation.

During the Installation stage, we will be working on strengthening the infrastructure in demonstration sites to support initial implementation.

This work includes developing materials, training staff and looking at our current processes at the demonstration sites to see if change is needed prior to implementation.



Workgroups

As part of implementation activities, the SSIP State Team is working with demonstration sites to build system capacity. To inform this work, the SSIP State Team is creating workgroups to determine necessary changes to procedures and to learn how to best encourage new practices.

To date, the SSIP State Team has formed an ECO Assessment work group. Although the SSIP project will focus on implementation in the demonstration sites, there is statewide representation on the ECO Assessment

Workgroup. This statewide representation helps us get a range of expertise, allows for rich discussion and ensures we are exploring options that can be sustained in all regions.

The ECO assessment workgroup was developed to assist in coming up with recommendations on ECO assessments and the initial assessment process. After a few meetings, we have determined that ECO assessments should not be discussed in isolation. We will be adjusting our focus to explore how to integrate ECO into all levels of our processes.

What's Next?

Next steps include creating a workgroup to explore the design of an integrated ECO and IFSP process. This workgroup will examine our current intake, assessment, evaluation and IFSP processes to determine opportunities to embed ECO practices.

Additionally, the SSIP State Team, demonstration sites and workgroups will work on developing:

- training materials to address ECOs process
- a personal development track
- an inter-rater reliability process for new ECO practices

How to Stay Informed

Visit the Infant Toddler Program SharePoint Site, State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) page for up-to-date information regarding the project at:

<http://sharepoint/sites/facs/itp/ssip/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

If you do not have access to SharePoint, notify your supervisor and they can share the information with you.

In addition, families and stakeholders can visit the Infant Toddler Program Website to read this "Quarterly SSIP Newsletter" at www.infanttoddler.idaho.gov.

SSIP State Team Members

Stephanie Perry, ITP Policy Specialist

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For questions or additional information, contact Donna McNearney at McNearND@dhw.idaho.gov or 208-334-4965.

Additional Resources

The Family, Infant, and Preschool Program (FIPP): <http://fipp.org>

AIM Early Idaho: www.aimearlyidaho.org

ECTA Center: [A Guide to the Implementation Process: Stages, Steps, and Activities](#)

