

Component F: Plans Moving Forward into FYY 22

Planned Evaluation Activities, Including Data Collection, Measures, and Expected Outcomes

The State will continue to implement the evaluation activities included in the SSIP Evaluation Plan submitted in Phase II. As part of Phonics First® implementation, the company that produces Phonics First® (i.e., Brainspring) plans to contract with an external research group to conduct a study of Mississippi's Phonics First® implementation. No other changes in evaluation activities, measures, or data collection methods are anticipated at this time, but the OSE will develop an SSIP Advisory Board that will consist of Special Education Directors, Special Education Teachers, General Education Teachers, Parents, and Community Leaders to help determine what changes are warranted for the evaluation component.

Staff from the technical assistance unit in the OSE, as well as the SSIP literacy coaches, will continue to work with district administrators to increase response rates to surveys such as the Literacy Instruction Capacity Survey. The OSE will continue to work through issues such as high staff turnover as it continues to provide support and technical assistance to districts. SSIP literacy coaches will continue to provide coaching to teachers in areas of the five components of reading. As general education and special education teachers' capacity is built in providing effective, evidence-based literacy instruction, especially in grades K-3, it is expected that more students' needs will be met in both general education and special education settings.

Due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) and the subsequent suspension of all federal and state assessments for the 2019-2020 school year, there will be no new MAAP assessment data of expected outcomes for 3rd grade students with SLD and L/S disabilities. The OSE will take this time to analyze data to determine a new SiMR.

Since assessment data for the 2021-2022 SY, this data will be used to determine if additional eligibility categories should be included, if the SiMR should be revised, and if an additional grade should be included in the SiMR.

Anticipated Barriers to Evaluation Activities, Including Steps to Address Barriers

MDE OSE staff will continue working to resolve identified barriers to completing the evaluation activities, including increasing the response rate on surveys. Employing SSIP Literacy Coaches will help in the OSE's efforts in increasing participation by working with the district staff to monitor the completion of surveys. For the 2020-2021 school year, the OSE employed three (3) SSIP literacy coaches and one (1) SSIP literacy coordinator.

Additional Support or Technical Assistance Needed

The Mississippi Department of Education has received technical assistance from several technical assistance agencies to support the development of Phase III of the SSIP and/or the ongoing implementation of the SSIP. These include the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, the National Center for Systemic Improvement, Learning Forward, IDEA Data Center, Regional Educational Laboratory-Southeast, and WestEd. As the MDE continues the implementation of the SSIP and works to evaluate the SSIP, assistance from OSEP and national technical assistance providers will be requested as appropriate.