



Special Education Services

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To: Honorable Jean Schodorf

Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Colleen Riley, Director Kansas State Department of Education
Special Education Services Team

Date: March 1, 2012

Dear Senator Schodorf,

Here is a brief summary of just some of the ongoing efforts by the Kansas State Department of Education across the state of Kansas since the FY 2011 Legislative Session:

- Updated the Eligibility Indicators Document to support educators in how to locate, identify, and evaluate students
www.ksde.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=TbxWRvwbHh4%3d&tabid=3152&od=11429
- Updated the Kansas Special Education Process Handbook, which provides comprehensive guidance regarding the processes educators are to use to evaluate and serve students
www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3152
- Provided training on a monthly basis across the state regarding evaluation and eligibility process www.ksdetasn.org/cms/index.php/component/content/article/76
- Began a cross agency team at the Kansas State Department of Education, dedicated to development of the "Sunflower Literacy Project". For the first time, KSDE actively engaged in the development of a state literacy plan which spans Early Childhood through Secondary. The plan is currently being reviewed and will be posted at www.ksde.org/literacy for public comment later this spring.
- The Kansas Learning Network (KLN) is a KSDE initiative that identifies districts that have schools which have not met the requirements of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) in reading and math. The KLN has provided in-depth professional development to staff in those schools via the Title I Reading Academies, MTSS facilitated training and the KLN Communities of Practice to improve reading and math instruction.
- Continued a respectful dialogue between Mr. Terry Sader and KSDE staff

Sen. Ed
3-1-12
Attach, 1-1

By the numbers:

- Over 1000 Kansas educators participated in two day Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) Symposium September 2011 (Mr. Sader was also invited and participated) <http://www.kansasmtss.org/training.htm>
- Thirty – five educators across Kansas are currently in the process of being certified as Kansas Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) trainers and are actively training across the state (certification will be complete July 2012) <http://ksdetasn.org/cms/index.php/component/content/article/74>
- Over 1000 Kansas educators have already received some training from the Kansas LETRS cadre trainers
- Eighty-eight Kansas special education teachers received training in LETRS Foundations via online learning
- Over 300 Kansas school administrators attended February 2012 “Creating and Rewarding Effective Inclusive Practices” <http://www.cvent.com/events/creating-and-rewarding-effective-inclusive-practices-conference/event-summary->

MTSS Core Team efforts during the 2011-12 year:

- In June 2011, the Kansas State Board of Education included MTSS in the Strategic Plan
- Fully developed and implemented Materials for PreK-12 for training in Math, Behavior, and Reading
- Materials for District-level Facilitation training are now in use
- In Kansas MTSS is in various stages of implementation in 209 elementary schools; 56 middle schools; 40 high schools; across 185 districts
- MTSS statewide External Evaluation conducted by WestEd is in its second year
- MTSS Core Team members working with other TASN projects/collaborative trainings ongoing
- MTSS Core Team members working with the KSDE staff to articulate how MTSS supports the Common Core training (Common Core is Tier 1 within MTSS)
- MTSS Core team members are part of the Sunflower Literacy Project
- MTSS Core team members working collaboratively with the Project KORE – Kansans Organized for Results-based Effective Instruction
- Attending and presenting at national conferences to share MTSS and learn about other system change initiatives
- Currently working on summer training for new cohort of MTSS recognized facilitators
- Continued collaboration with The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center to refine and provide training in Parent Engagement in an MTSS school