Making Connections
Between a Multi-Tiered System (MTSS) of Support & NCStar


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Southeast Region
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Session Objectives

1. Shift our thinking
   - School Improvement
   - MTSS

2. Examine Tools
   - NCStar
   - SAM

3. Make Connections
Define/Describe the Following:

*Use 4 separate notecards
Why NCStar?

2016 Survey: How often does your school revise or edit your school improvement plan during a school year?

Most SIP Plans...
Every System is Perfectly Aligned for the Outcome it is Getting
Utilizing a Multi-Tiered System of Support for total School Improvement

How does the school improvement planning experience feel at your school(s)?
NC MTSS is a multi-tiered framework which promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices. NC MTSS employs a systems approach using data-driven problem-solving to maximize growth for all.
MYTH

MTSS is just for students who are struggling

6 Critical Components

- Data Based Problem-Solving
- Communicating and Collaboration
- Leadership
- Data Evaluation
- Three Tiered Instruction/Intervention
- Build Capacity/Infrastructure for Implementation

fact
**Organizing Support**

**Define**

Let’s say what we’re going to do:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>Intervention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔ Instruction</td>
<td>✔ Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Curriculum</td>
<td>✔ Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔ Environment</td>
<td>✔ Environment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Analyze**

Did we do what we said we were going to do? What happened as a result?

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We can no longer intervene our way out of a faulty Core.
What does MTSS mean for me? When will I know we are “doing MTSS”?

**District Level**

- Healthy District/School Culture
- Data Based Problem-Solving
- Barrier Removal
- Build Effective Systems

- Support structures for schools
- Alignment of resources
- Scaffolding of short and long term support plans
School Level

Healthy School Culture

Master Schedule

Teachers are instruction in their areas of strength

Vertical Alignment

Protects Core Support

Includes time that has been defined in the intervention system

Support plans are aligned and accelerate learning opportunities

NCStar
web-based tool that guides district or school leadership teams in charting improvement and managing a continuous improvement process

builds accountability as well as helps schools track their improvement plans

brings all stakeholders into the continuous improvement process by allowing “view only” capability and “real time” transparency of the school improvement process to all staff, district personnel, school board members, and parents

NCStar is Not

A traditional school improvement plan
School Improvement of the PAST

**Goal Setting**
- Student outcomes focused
- Improving scores on standardized measures

**Review of Plan**
- Stagnant
- Compliance-based

School Improvement of the PRESENT

**Plan Development**
- DATA INFORM Decisions
- Focus on Practice + Adult Actions
- Think Small

**Plan Evaluation**
- Decree throughout the academic year
- Progress captured and new goals set
- Coaching: suggests from the district and other support from DPI
NCStar Usage

- All state identified low-performing schools (505)
- All federally identified priority (131) focus (135) schools
- 1,638 schools in 2017-2018
- 52 districts have district wide use
- All low-performing schools receive comments from NCDPI

Best Practices for Effective Schools

- Develop goals and priorities with an effective plan for implementation
- Use data to drive decisions
- Recruit, train, and retain high quality staff
- Implement quality PLCs
- Implement strategies for ensuring ALL students are learning
- Implement a strategic literacy plan
- Maintain student engagement and assist students with transitions
- Re-evaluate practices and procedures impact on learning
- Engage the community in partnerships to support high quality education for ALL students
How We Know It Worked

Of the 44 Original Low Performing High Schools identified by Judge Manning in 2004 only 5 remained Low Performing and all of them had increased their graduation rates even 10 years later (based on the 2013-14 accountability data).

During Race To The Top, NCDPI worked on transforming the bottom 5% of elementary, middle, and high schools (118 schools). Of those, only 15 are still in the bottom 5% according to 2016-17 data.

The 12 Key NCStar Indicators
Handout
Teaming: District Level

MTSS District Teaming

MTSS District Team:
Purpose: remove barriers for district implementation
Membership: District leaders (decision makers)

MTSS Leadership Team:
Purpose: drive implementation at the district and school level
Membership: Coordinator and skills needed for implementation

There is flexibility for these teams to be one in the same
Functions of both teams need to be met
LEA SUPPORT & IMPROVEMENT TEAM

Purpose: coach schools on school improvement process by providing at least 2 coaching comments per month

Membership: District leaders (not elected)

District Data
**Implementation Data**
- Self – Assessment of MTSS (SAM)
- NCStar Reports
- Other implementation data

**Outcome Data**
- Academic
- Behavior
- Attendance
- Dropout
- Graduation
- Staff
- Surveys

**Demographic Data**
- Enrollment
- Ethnicity
- Race
- Students with Disabilities
- LEP students
- AIG
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Homeless
- Foster Care
- Homebound
- Gender

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**District Team Connections**

- Membership
- Data
Team Functions

- Remove barriers for school improvement efforts
- Build and support MTSS efforts
- District improvement planning utilizing implementation, outcome data & demographic data
- Coach schools in problem-solving needs and building sustainable solutions

Teaming: School Level
Team Membership

MTSS School Teams:
School Leadership
Skill sets

NCStar School Improvement Team:
School Leadership
Elected staff members (G.S. 115C - 105.27)

School Team Meetings

MTSS School Teams:
1 time per month analyze implementation and outcome data
Build and install implementation plans that support allocation of resources for staff and student needs
Problem-solve implementation and outcome data

NCStar Meetings:
2 meetings per month recorded in the tool (with agendas + minutes)
1 meeting is the School Improvement Team
1 meeting is flexible in function (very common to see this as an MTSS team meeting)
Full Implementation - What is the Evidence?

Activity #1

- Open the folder on your table and read the Indicator and its corresponding WiseWays document
- Discuss and record examples of “Evidence” that School Improvement Teams may upload to the Document Upload section of NCStar for your given Indicator

Activity #2

Now that each group has a better understanding of the assigned indicator, create sample tasks that a school may include in their plan to reach full implementation. Mark in the indicator document if the task is applicable to elementary, middle, and/or high.

TASKS = ACTION STEPS = STRATEGIES
Self Assessment of MTSS (SAM)

COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

- Review and discuss the corresponding SAM items for your NCStar indicator from the previous activity.

- Can you see how you can use one tool to inform the other?
Putting this all together

NCStar is a web-based tool to utilize within the MTSS framework to guide total school improvement.

Exit Ticket

1. Take out your four note cards
2. Turn them over
3. On each one write down any "ahas", shifts in thinking, or something you learned today about:
   - School Improvement
   - MTSS
   - NCStar
   - SAM
QUESTIONS

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