



Building State Capacity
and Productivity Center



April 2018

Greetings Colleagues,

The calendar indicates it is spring and in some areas of the country that is true, while other areas it is hard to believe. The truth lies somewhere in between, depending on where you reside. Regardless of your location we know all of us have projects sprouting and growing into deeper work with the states we support. I wish you well as your work continues to blossom this spring.

The BSCP Center hosts Financial Transparency “office hours”

The BSCP Center will host a virtual "office hours" for Regional Comprehensive Centers and other technical assistance providers on May 1, 2018 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm ET. During this session, Edunomics Lab will clarify the financial transparency components in ESSA and the timeline for state implementation, as well as answer any questions participants may have about state progress and efforts. Technical assistant providers are encouraged to invite their states to attend this session with them. Please register at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1068971982610571266>. Feel free to send any questions in advance so our expert partners, the Edunomics Lab, have time to prepare answers. Questions may be sent to Katie.Hagan@georgetown.edu prior to the May 1 “office hours.”

The BSCP Center releases a proactive communication solutions piece

I encourage you to review our latest Solutions piece that addresses the questions, “How can state education agencies be proactive and improve their effectiveness in communicating with internal and external stakeholders?”



SEA Strategic Communications: Making Communications More Proactive, Efficient, and Effective was authored by Heather Zavadsky, PhD, BSCP Center and Kerri White, Ed. D from the South Central Comprehensive Center. This Solutions piece details the critical elements of a strategic communication approach and how the Arkansas Department of Education has improved its communication processes through applying those elements. This paper can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2ppQCIQ>

Partnering to support the Michigan Department of Education

In late February of this year, the BSCP Center, in partnership with the Great Lakes Comprehensive Center, met with a working group from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to discuss communication planning around MDE’s Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring system. The goal of the session was to collaboratively draft a communication plan



to increase awareness and use of the Early Warning system in Michigan. The agenda consisted of discussions and activities around four key areas:

- Identifying goals and context for communications
- Identifying stakeholders
- Crafting messages and identifying channels for various stakeholders
- Drafting a communications plan for the Early Warning system.

While the meeting was originally designed to support the eleven-member Early Warning system team on their specific initiative, there were other key agency staff members and partners in attendance to learn from the process, including members from the agency's Communications, Multi-Tiered System of Support, and Social Emotional Learning workgroups. Important outcomes from the meeting included an awareness of how many divisions are involved with communicating about and implementing an initiative like the Early Warning System; an understanding of the need for clear ownership of agency initiatives; and an overall understanding of how the agency can learn from the process provided by BSCP to inform future communication efforts.

I invite you to contact me if you would like to have conversations related to the topics discussed in my letter. Professional, collegial, conversations are one of the benefits of the center network and the states supported by the network. Enjoy Spring.

Sincerely,

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Building State Capacity and Productivity Center

The Building State Capacity and Productivity Center (BSCP Center) focuses work on helping state education agencies (SEAs) throughout the country, as they adapt to constrained fiscal resources and increased demands for greater productivity. As State Departments of Education are facing a daunting challenge of improving student performance with diminishing financial resources, the BSCP Center provides technical assistance to SEAs that builds their capacity to support local educational agencies (LEAs or districts) and schools, and to the other 21 regional comprehensive centers and national content centers that serve them, by providing high quality information, tools, and implementation support. The partners in the BSCP Center are Westat, the Academic Development Institute, and the Edunomics Lab (Georgetown University).

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