



August 2017

Greetings Colleagues,

As the summer ends, the BSCP Center looks forward to continuing to provide technical assistance and developing resources for Regional Comprehensive Centers and state educational agencies as they prepare for the start of another productive school year. My letter will feature a couple of the new opportunities which will support your work.

The Strategic Communications Toolbox and supporting webinar series are now available.

Under the leadership of Heather Zavadsky, Senior Studies Director at the BSCP Center with support from communications experts at Westat and participating RCCs and SEAs, a Strategic Communications Toolbox was developed. The Toolbox is based on the BSCP Strategic Communications Framework to help SEAs increase their capacity to support statewide education reform through coherent communication processes. The six modules in the Toolbox are designed to provide guidance, examples from the field, and tools for SEAs to use no matter where they are in their communication planning process. Visit www.bscpcenter.org to see how the Toolbox can help you create a strategic communications plan.

A three- part supporting webinar series was developed and is designed to show how SEAs can use the new Strategic Communications Toolbox to develop and enhance strategic communication plans. To register for the upcoming webinars, visit <http://bit.ly/2wJB4m7>

<p>August 30 2017 2:00 pm EST</p>	<p>It's all about the plan, goals, and getting the message right!</p>	<p>Melissa McGrath: Director of Communications for the Council of Chief State School Officers Create a planning team, translate goals into action, and craft key messages.</p>
<p>September 6 2017 2:00 pm EST</p>	<p>Talk, Talk, Talk! Effective Communications</p>	<p>Kimberly Friedman: Arkansas Department of Education Communications Director. Deborah Coffman: Arkansas Department of Education Assistant Commissioner of Public School Accountability Create internal and external communication processes.</p>
<p>September 19 2017 2:00 pm EST</p>	<p>Making it Work. Implementing your strategic communications plan</p>	<p>Commissioner Randy Watson: Kansas Department of Education Denise Kahler: Kansas Department of Education Director of Communications and Recognition Programs Implement and refine the plan through stakeholder engagement, partnerships, and a continuous process.</p>



Coming soon are the BSCP Center's new financial transparency resources.

I am excited to announce that two new financial transparency resources will be available on the BSCP Center website in September. The first is a tool that enables users to produce per-pupil expenditure data using two existing National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) surveys. This School Level Financial Survey (SLFS) Converter Tool creates an output that is consistent with the language of the financial transparency requirement in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), displaying school level expenditure by source of fund.

The second resource is a new paper on the various approaches a state may consider when assigning expenditures to the school level or the central level, which is one of the most challenging decisions states will make when working towards meeting the financial transparency requirement. Embedded within the paper are short case studies, including a podcast interview with Donna Nester from Mississippi's Office of School Financial Services, and a slideshow detailing Rhode Island's chart of accounts. Look for both the SLFS Converter Tool and the new paper on the BSCP website in September.

Thanks for reading the Director's Letter and sharing it with your colleagues. I am looking forward to any feedback or questions you may have regarding the resources that I promoted in this letter and other initiatives at the BSCP Center. Enjoy the fall season and all the beauty it brings.

Sincerely,

Dean H. Nafziger, Ph.D.
Director, Building State Capacity & Productivity Center at Westat
210-558-4101 or deannafziger@westat.com



Building State Capacity
and Productivity Center

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 Ednomics Lab (Georgetown University).

Visit us at:



www.bscpcenter.org

