CENTER ON INSTRUCTION

CAPACITY BUILDING INDICATORS & DISSEMINATION STRATEGIES

Conversations with Practitioners:
Supporting State-level Collaboration among General and Special Educators

This document is the third resource of a series of *Conversations with Practitioners*, based on a working group of state-level and regional comprehensive center (RCC) staff which collaborated on a project designed to learn how state departments of education, along with their RCCs, are supporting an RTI framework. This document focuses on the collaboration of general and special educators. It discusses the definition of collaboration, provides recommendations for supporting state-level collaboration, and offers tools and suggestions for building capacity for collaboration.

Intended Audience: Regional Comprehensive Centers, Other national TA providers, SEAs

To expand RCC's capacity, this activity or resource:	
Confirms what the RCC is already doing.	Increases capacity of RCCs to support states in fostering collaboration as a means to achieve shared goals.
Raises awareness of new developments in fields important to states' work.	Provides examples of ongoing or past collaborative activities/efforts (at the RCC and state levels)
Helps the RCC help states frame a problem in new ways.	Provides differentiation of three kinds of partnerships—cooperation, coordination, and collaboration—for accomplishing a shared goal.
Helps the RCC help states accomplish a goal or solve a problem.	Provides recommendations for supporting state-level collaboration.
Helps the RCC help states improve or support an ongoing state program, policy, or practice.	Allows RCCs to engage in a discussion with SEAs to develop their capacity to engage in collaborative work.
Helps the RCC help states plan or initiate a new state program, policy, or practice.	Allows RCCs to engage in a discussion with SEAs regarding the use of collaboration as a vehicle to help implement new initiatives.
Helps the RCC enhance states' ability to address NCLB requirements.	Allows RCCs to build the capacity of SEAs to address NCLB requirements that benefit from collaboration between various departments or stakeholders.
Helps RCC improve states' ability to work with districts.	Helps RCCs build the capacity of SEAs to increase collaboration between various departments or stakeholders, which can then be communicated to general and special educators in districts.
Puts the RCC in touch with other organizations engaged in similar tasks.	Includes reading list provided to the working group prior to the meeting discussion, and the participants list of those who attended the meeting.
Enables the RCC to carry out its work more effectively.	Provides handouts that can be used by RCCs to facilitate discussions according to the needs of the collaboration and its stakeholders.
Helps the RCC help states complete NCLB-related applications, plans, and reports.	Provides handouts for RCCs to use as a tool in helping states to implement various efforts and initiatives.

Accompanying/Related Materials:

- Virtual Working Meeting: Fostering Collaboration between General and Special Educators (January 2010)

Center on Instruction
RMC Research Corporation1000 Market St., Bldg. 2, Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-422-8888, 1-800-258-0802 Fax 603-436-9166
Email: apenfold@rmcres.com Website: http://www.centeroninstruction.org

- State RTI Implementation Meeting (March 2008)
- Conversations with Practitioners: Current Practice in Statewide RTI Implementation - Recommendations and Frequently Asked Questions
- RTI CTRL: Response to Intervention Classification Tool and Resource Locator (July 2009)
- WebEx: Introduction to RTI CTRL (August 2009)

Suggested Dissemination Strategies:

- Provide the document and handouts to SEAs.
- Use the handouts with SEA staff to facilitate conversations about collaborative partnerships.