

CEELO ECTA Formative Assessment PLC

May 20, 2014

Today's Topic:

FA – Professional Development

Key takeaways:

- Some PD is done by trainers who go to the district, some is done through online training
- Getting the right fit for the audience is a challenge.
- Participants on the call were interested in virtual PLCs/COPs

Resource:

- MA RFP for KEA training (if you would like to view the RFP, contact Melissa Dahlin at mdahlin@edc.org)

Follow-Up

- Early Learning Scale protocol for “data conference” (Shannon)
- Try out a “data conference” style session – one person comes in with some data and presents questions to group around the data, solicits advice from the group, and reflects

Attendees

Betsy Edes (MA)
Dana Jones (IN)
Holly Cavender-Wood
Jo Anne Ralston
Jonah Stuart
Kara Sammet (CA)
Kathy Thornburg
Lori Connors-Tadros
Lucy Trautman
Melissa Dahlin
Nick Ortiz
Phyllis Mondak

Discussion Questions

How does your state provide PD to encourage reliability in assessment?

Subquestion: How do you check and maintain reliability?

What infrastructure elements are necessary to support PD for FA?

What models are there of PD to support teachers on FA?

Deeper Dive Notes

Provision of PD

- MA
 - Contracts out to vendors for PD through a competitive bid through their website.
 - Working with a new group this year
 - Go out to districts
 - Use TS GOLD. GOLD trains the trainers. Those trainers go out and do training
- MO
 - Pilot over a year ago selected DRDP for recommended FA
 - WestEd held train the trainer sessions
 - Competitive bid for instrument
 - No formal process for the certified trainers –used word of mouth in communities; tried to get variety of experience (e.g., some from Head Start)
 - Wanted trainers located around state
 - Reliability - WestEd staff spent about eight days watching the newly trainer trainers

Online training

- IN – only method available; work with CCR&R – recorded webinars for them to use for introduction, Dana does individualized webinars
- MA - will be using web-based; trying to do train the trainer on-site so not so much travel

Incentives for Participation

- IN – teachers can use PD points towards license renewal; for others, can use it towards required training hours; matching grants (Lori mentioned this)
- MA – required for grants to run all-day K; give money for substitutes for teachers (using RTT funding)

Infrastructure

- Travel budget limits a challenge
- Hard time getting PD to be right fit (not too easy or hard) with groups with mixed abilities

- Important to get leadership on board
- Lucy – for Early Literacy Quick Assessment (ELQA)– people want to train in big group, they are conducting pre-surveys to try to tailor it
- MA –RTT dollars to train now, but concern that once RTT funding is gone, there will still be new teachers coming in that need training, how to meet that need?
- Data coaches
 - NH funding through OSEP for SWIFT – those schools often have data coaches; Indistar has data coaches
 - Lucy – research study through University of OK
 - REA3H coaches – split state into geographic areas, assigned coaches to work with teachers
 - Early Learning Scale
 - Developed protocol for teachers to present data and pose a question about it to other teachers (hard to find coaches)
 - Group asks the teacher questions, offers advice, teacher reflects & makes action plan
 - Keeps meeting down to a very focused 30 minutes and embedded in data

How to find PD that's high quality and can be scaled up?

- Boston – providing teacher-coaches to teachers; are looking into how can scale up; report will come out, not sure when
- NJ – lots of training happens in district around a specific tool but approach/concerns/use of data could be discussed across tools

Coordination and Collaboration - Thoughts

- Look at all types of PD in state and leverage; make a menu that a state or district level can go through
- IN - collaborate with Division of Child Care and others for coordinated PD
- Virtual COP
- “Data Conference” – could FA PLC do? One member present a question and get feedback from others and then reflect

Next call (June 17)