

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### **MTSS District Coaching FAQ**

#### **What is the MTSS District Coaching project ?**

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) initiative is looking to build the capacity of local school districts through the implementation of MTSS sustained by district coaching. Through this effort WDE will provide professional development and technical assistance in collaboration with a district coach. The projected timeframe of the MTSS District Coaching project is May 2016- June 2018 (potential ongoing support after 2018 pending a new grant cycle).

#### **What is Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)?**

A comprehensive system of differentiated supports that includes evidence-based instruction, universal screening, progress monitoring, formative assessments, research-based interventions matched to students' needs, and educational decision-making using student outcome data

School districts are seeing valuable outcomes where MTSS is being implemented in schools with rigor and fidelity. Research and current practices show that schools and districts engaged in aligning resources, promoting greater collaboration, and striving to serve students through a rigorous MTSS model who demonstrates needs academically and behaviorally leads to:

- gains in reading and math assessment scores for all students;
- a decrease in inappropriate referrals to special education
- a decrease in suspensions and expulsions;
- improved collaboration between general and special education; and
- corresponding cost benefits

#### **What are the benefits for the districts? Refer to the Give and Get document Project WIN site- URL**

- Building the districts MTSS efforts and capacity
- Improved outcomes for ALL students
- Professional learning opportunity with colleagues, state and national experts
- Reimbursement for time and travel

### How are districts selected to receive MTSS Coaching support?

Interested districts should complete and submit the following items by April 22, 2016:

1. MTSS Coaching Application- URL

**AND**

2. MTSS Implementation Checklist-
  - a. Literacy Checklist: <https://surveymonkey.com/r/MTSSLiteracyChecklist>
  - b. Behavior Checklist: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MTSSBehaviorChecklist>

### What is the application and selection timeline?

- Application release date April 4, 2016
  - Application due date April 22, 2016
  - WDE notification of acceptance April 29, 2016
  - Initial Coaches Session May 13, 2016 in Riverton, WY at the Holiday Inn 8:30-12:00
- \*coaches are encouraged to attend initial meeting\**

### Who can be an MTSS District Coach?

Prerequisite skills of an MTSS District Coach include:

- In-depth understanding of the tiered model of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- In-depth understanding of the problem-solving process
- Willingness and ability to work collaboratively
- Demonstration of strong leadership skills
- Evidence of planning and organizational skills
- Ability to structure time and management of multiple priorities
- Skills in effective communication and presentation skills
- Evidence of continued professional development
- Knowledge of effective instruction, research-based curricula, and academic content standards
- Passion for increasing achievement of all Wyoming students.

### Can our district identify two coaches if we have a large district?

It is possible to have multiple coaches in the district. However, please contact the MTSS SPDG Coordinator, Jennifer Hiler, to discuss further options for your district.

### What is the responsibilities of the district coach?

The MTSS District Coach will play an important role in the district's current MTSS initiative while building the district's capacity to sustain the MTSS framework. Each district coach is responsible for the following:

- Attend at least 3-4 onsite coaches' trainings (e.g., School Improvement coaches track, regional workshops, etc.)
- Attend monthly coaches webinars (WebEX) on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month
- Providing 8-10 hours of MTSS district implementation coaching support per month (e.g., prep, data-collection, review/analysis, coaching and development)
- Complete additional agreed upon activities (e.g., evaluation and data collection, development of a district MTSS Guidance Document, share-out at designated statewide professional development events)

What type of support will the district coach receive through the project?

MTSS District Coaches will be adequately supported throughout the project. Below are the types of support the project provides.

- Reimbursement for time and travel
- MTSS and Systems Coaching training provided by national experts
- District-based onsite, coaching provided by a state MTSS coach
- Ongoing remote and web-based technical assistance
- Access to national resources and experts in MTSS
- In addition, each MTSS District Coach will have the opportunity to identify individual needs and develop a customized coaching technical assistance plan.

Who should be on the district MTSS Team?

- Leadership personnel
- Regular education representative
- Special education representative
- Instructional Facilitator

What are the responsibilities/functions of the MTSS Team?

- Monthly MTSS meetings i.e. district and/or building level meetings
- Attend professional development opportunities (e.g., statewide conferences, webinars, PLCs)
- Development of district Implementation Team
- Completion of necessary evaluations over the course of the grant