Use of IDEA Funds to Support SSIP Activities

IDEA Fiscal Forum for the Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States
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Presentation Objectives-

- Review RDA, Entity SSIPs, and related activities, including the implementation of evidence based practices (EBPs).
- Examine concepts of the cost principles of the OMB Uniform Guidance, and how they impact the use of IDEA funds.
- Discuss Entity successes and challenges using IDEA funds to support SSIP activities, including the implementation of EBPs.
- Discuss Entity examples of effective collaboration with other offices and/or agencies to support SSIP-related activities.
- Examine how Entities are budgeting and forecasting SSIP-related expenses.

Results Driven Accountability (RDA)

- RDA's Three Components:
  - State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Reports (SPP/APR), which measures results and compliance. States are currently developing State Systematic Improvement Plans (SSIPs), designed to improve outcomes in targeted areas.
  - Determinations, which reflect State performance on results, as well as compliance.
  - Differentiated monitoring and support for all States and entities, but especially low performing States and entities.

Principles of RDA

Principle 1: *Partnership with stakeholders*

Principle 2: *Transparent and understandable to educators and families*

Principle 3: *Drives improved results*

Principle 4: *Protects children and families*

Principle 5: *Differentiated incentives and supports to states*

Principle 6: *Encourages states to target resources and reduce burden*

Principle 7: *Responsive to need*

State Systemic Implementation Plan (SSIP)

- Multi-year plan
  - Phase I—Submitted in 2015 "The SIMR"
    - Conduct Broad Analyses
    - Identify Result(s)
    - Conduct In-depth Analyses
    - Confirm or Narrow/Refine Result(s)
    - Identify Improvement Strategies
    - Create a Theory of Action

Phase I: Fiscal Infrastructure Analysis

- 2(b) A description of the State's systems infrastructure (at a minimum the governance, **<u>fiscal</u>**, quality standards, professional development, data, technical assistance, and accountability/monitoring). OSEP will consider the extent to which:

- The State analyzed all systems within its infrastructure related to the SIMR.

State Systemic Implementation Plan (SSIP)

- Phase II—Submitted in 2016 "The Plan"
  - Examine and Expand Infrastructure
  - Support for Schools and Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices
  - Conduct Evaluations

Phase II: Infrastructure Development

1(a) Specify improvements that will be made to the State infrastructure to better support LEAs to implement and scale up EBPs to improve the SIMR for children with disabilities.

Questions to consider:

- What are the specific improvement activities that the State will use to improve the State infrastructure and how will those activities improve the State's ability to support LEAs?

- As informed by the analysis in Phase I, how will the changes in State infrastructure support LEAs in implementing the coherent improvement strategies and activities in a sustainable manner?

SSIP: Fiscal Infrastructure

What are your Entity's Processes for:

- Financial Planning Process/Forecasting
- System for Fiscal Data
- Coordinating and Aligning Resources
- Resource Allocation, Use of Funds, and Disbursement
- Monitoring and Accountability of Funds and Resources

State Systemic Implementation Plan (SSIP)

- Phase III—Will be submitted on April 1, 2017 "The Implementation"

  - Evaluation of Activities

  - Alignment with Phases I and II

  - Procedures and Analysis

  - Implementation and Evaluation: Progress Summary

Fiscal Considerations

- Are fiscal resources available to support the implementation of the focus area improvement strategies? Specify funding sources.

- Are there other fiscal resources that could be leveraged to support the implementation of the focus area improvement strategies? Specify funding sources.

Fiscal Considerations

- Who will be responsible for approving allocation of fiscal resources needed for implementation of the focus area improvement strategies?

- Are there any specific purchasing policies or procedures that could negatively impact acquisition of resources (e.g. equipment, materials, personnel, etc.)

- Who will be responsible for documenting expenditures related to the implementation of the focus area improvement strategies?

Discussion of Entity SSIPs and SIMRs

- Six of seven entities here have an early literacy SIMR
  - RMI's SIMR is to increase the graduation rate of CWD
- We noticed plans included:
  - Professional development
  - Explicit instruction in reading (e.g. phonemic awareness/phonics)
  - Activities addressing the needs of dual identified CWD/ELL students

SSIP Discussion

- What aspects of your SSIP do you feel to be a strength?

- What challenges existed/continue to exist?

- Describe your collaborative efforts with other offices within your Department/Ministry and external Departments/Ministries.

- How involved are your stakeholders?

Fiscal Reminders when Implementing the SSIP

- All fiscal requirements of IDEA and the OMB Uniform Guidance apply to SSIP activities
- In order to be effective, strategic planning, budgeting, utilization of resources and timely reporting are needed
- The SSIP is not performed in a vacuum

Cost Principles Reminders

- For the following examples, consider whether the activities meet the standards for:

  - Reasonable

  - Necessary

  - Allocable

  From the OMB Uniform Guidance

Entity Examples

- For this presentation we examined your Phase II SSIP submissions from both a programmatic and fiscal perspective.
  - We looked at specific activities within each SSIP.
  - Let's discuss

Supporting SSIP Activities

- Allocation of State-level funding support for instructional materials. Increase professional development opportunities for the coach, principals and team.

- Evidence-based literacy strategies to promote the learning of students with disabilities are being implemented with fidelity in classrooms. The Department is in the process of hiring a literacy consultant.

Supporting Entity-wide Initiatives

- To implement a systemic early literacy and reading curricula for grades K to 3rd grade based on common core state standards that explicitly teach the five essential components of reading (Fluency, Vocabulary, Comprehension, Phonemic Awareness and Phonics).

- Purchasing DIBELS

Use of IDEA funds

- Identifying the universal screening and progress monitoring tools for reading; and training to personnel in the four participating schools and district personnel in the use of universal screening and progress monitoring tools

- Have a system of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports for students

Considerations for EBPs

- Personnel Development Costs
- Cost of an Ongoing Commitment to Coaching/Mentoring
- Associated Supplies and Materials
- Potential Data System Enhancements

Time for Small Group Discussions

For your entity's selected activity (e.g., the implementation of an evidence-based practice), discuss how the entity:

(1) Budgeted funds for the selected activity/EBP;

(2) Collaborated with other programs to leverage its IDEA funds;

(3) Provided oversight of the use of IDEA funds and other resources used for the activity;

(4) Anticipated future costs for the activity.

Questions?