

MEMORANDUM

To: Glenna Gallo, Director of Special Education Services
From: Utah Special Education Advisory Panel (USEAP)
Subject: Utah Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (UMTSS)
Date: September 19, 2013

In our role as an advisory panel, we would like to provide input and recommendations to the Special Education Section of the Utah State Office of Education to improve services to students with disabilities. After receiving training on Utah Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (UMTSS) and engaging in panel discussion, it is the feeling of this panel that issues around UMTSS need to be a priority of the Utah State Office of Education.

Recommendations:

The State Implementation Team (SIT) should focus on:

- Collecting data to identify effective and data-driven interventions that can be implemented district wide.
- Having a parent on the UMTSS district committee to act as a liaison.
- Having different modes of training (technology, school-wide).
- Providing intense training for administrators to help provide school leadership the tools to lead schools in the UMTSS framework.
- Coaching on specific intervention topics to help provide support for specific schools.

UMTSS framework can better serve schools by:

- Expanding to include all the LEAs in the state.
- Providing outreach for LEAs not participating in the grant.
- Communicating with parents on the expectations of students, teachers, administrators, and parents at specific schools.
- Training on how UMTSS impacts students with more significant needs.
- Identifying who is in charge of each Tier (so teachers don't think that once a student gets to a certain Tier that they are a special education responsibility, not a general education responsibility).
- Providing an individual that can review plans and give schools training.

Currently USEAP believes that the most misunderstood components of UMTSS are:

- What is the purpose of UMTSS?
- Does it replace Response to Intervention's (RTI) Pyramid of Interventions (POI)?
- Clarification on interventions between Tier 1 and Tier 2.
- Clarification on how the UMTSS framework works in conjunction with the referral process for special education.
- That UMTSS is a special education initiative.

USEAP can support the implementation of UMTSS by:

- Helping to disseminate information about the components of the UMTSS Framework.
- Recommending that additional stakeholders be asked to provide input since UMTSS is not solely a special education initiative.