



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

# Using the State Tool for Examining Post School Success (STEPSS)

Capacity Building Institute

May 7, 2019

# Stories from Colorado



# Why Colorado decided to jump in . . .

- Lack of change over 5 years in graduation and dropout rates for SWD
- Increase our involvement at the LEA level
- To assist and guide LEAs in the process, looking closely at their school systems using the data from the four indicators.
  - Program Evaluation
  - Root Cause Analysis
  - Improvement Strategies

# Why we love it?

- Systematic
- Collaborative approach with education and community agencies
- Empowering local teams
- Facilitation model
- Funneling

# Narrowing of Focus

Phase 1: Broad information – lots of data

Phases 2 - 3: Narrowing to student group and outcome

Phase 4: Action Planning

# Rolling out the pilot

First try - 2017-18 school year

- 3-day NTACT training

Data based selection process

- LEA data analysis
- Invitations
- Introductory webinar to Directors
- No takers





# Rolling out the pilot – Take 2

Take 2 - 2018-19 school year

- Refresher training - 2 days
- Selection process
  - Personal relationships
  - Identified 2 LEAs from each region
  - Introductory webinar to Directors
    - Virtual or in person
  - All 4 accepted the opportunity



## SEA

- More time needed for each phase (varied by team)
- Decision makers are essential
- It looks different for every team
  - School team only
  - Community agencies but few school members
  - School leaders involved
- Facilitation is harder than we thought
- Action plans - short term and long term



## LEAs

### Zoom Participants

- Loved discussion: Predictors and Essential Program Characteristics
- Brought together people from different parts of the district
- Commitment to the process and time

# Reaction of locals: Benefits

- A panel of stakeholders presented their experiences and lessons learned implementing STEPSS at our Special Education Directors' Meeting in April.
- Enable each group to focus on the change that they could effect (different for each group).
- Action planning - short term and long term
- Sustainability - teams committed to ongoing work next year

# Next STEPSS



- Sustainability
  - Teams committed to ongoing work next year
  - SEA committed to continued support
- SEA hopes to recruit 4 more LEAs to participate for 2019-20 school year.

**Time for  
Questions**

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