# Differentiated Systems of Support for Rural Agencies Community of Practice (CoP)

**Thursday, December 14, 2017**

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Eastern time zone**

## Agenda – Learning Cycle 3: Differentiating Rural School Improvement Technical Assistance—Professional Development

| Time | Session Topic | Speakers |
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| 3:00 p.m.15 minutes | Welcome, Review of Learning Cycle 3Welcome SEA and LEA participantsGreetings from Dennis Bega*Director, Office of Rural and Community Engagement.**ED’s Office of Rural and Community Engagement (ORCE) coordinates outreach efforts across the Department that focus on serving rural communities. Rural outreach includes use of technology to communicate with remote communities, sharing information and best/promising practices with rural educators on ed.gov, and keeping the community apprised of ED policies, opportunities, and initiatives. The work of this team includes special emphasis on outreach to, and providing information for, American Indian communities and the faith-based community.*Brief reminder of CoP norms*Revisit the norms to support the CoP.* Brief discussion of virtual learning responses*Discuss feedback shared by CoP members on the virtual learning platform around previous learning topics.* | Dr. Paul Hopkins, State Support Network |
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| 60 minutes | Differentiating Rural School Improvement Technical Assistance—Professional DevelopmentHow do states provide rural educators with professional development opportunities? Voices from the Field*A challenge facing many rural school systems is providing educators with professional development opportunities. The team from the Montana Office of Public Instruction and Kentucky Department of Education will provide information about their work that seeks to provide rural LEAs with meaningful professional development. CoP members will have an opportunity to ask questions, discuss, and process information shared. The key ideas and takeaways will be documented and shared with all members via email following this session.*What is the current state of professional development in rural school systems?*There are characteristics of what constitutes effective professional development. What are these characteristics and how are rural school systems challenged to meet them? State and local leaders will add to this discussion by sharing information about their experiences. This discussion will be documented and shared with all members via email following this session.*What is the desired state of professional development in rural school systems?*Although there are unique challenges for rural school systems in providing effective professional development, there are examples of successful initiatives. The CoP will learn about a few innovative and collaborative practices of where rural school systems are engaging their faculty and staff with meaningful professional learning experiences. SEAs will close this section by sharing how they are and/or could help rural districts move toward their desired state for professional development.* | Montana Office of Public InstructionKentucky Department of EducationDr. Brad Mitchell, State Support NetworkBrad Mitchell |
| 15 minutes | Next Steps and Check-Out Activity*Discuss pre-work and communications for next learning cycle. Remind participants of the virtual learning space.* Close with a Check-Out Activity where all CoP members will have the opportunity to share something they have learned and/or something they would like to learn more about from this CoP Learning Cycle. | Paul Hopkins |
| 4:30 p.m. | Adjourn |  |