Integrating an Attendance Multi-Tiered System of Supports into State MTSS Frameworks

The Learning Series opened with the first series, titled “Integrating an Attendance Multi-Tiered System of Supports into State MTSS Frameworks”. The series focused on how to integrate attendance-focused support into existing State MTSS frameworks to ensure current MTSS frameworks better support attendance. The objective of the series was to bring together state and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) to learn about promising practices and provide resources to address challenges related to student engagement and chronic absenteeism. SEAC brought together 12 state teams during the first series.

The first session was titled “Building the School’s Attendance MTSS, Beginning with Prevention” focused on the significant impact of COVID-19 on student absenteeism and the implications for heightened chronic absence for an attendance MTSS system. The second session titled “Taking a Transformational Approach to MTSS” featured state presenters who shared how they transitioned their policies from a focus on unexcused absences a student a family centered multiple-tiered approach to student absenteeism. The final session “Applying Lessons Learned” provided state teams an opportunity to reflect on their State’s MTSS strategy and learn about available tools from Attendance Works.

Attendance Works subject matter experts led the series starting with their framework for MTSS that emphasized the importance of multi-level supports including systems ingredients for success and creating a sustainable model. The series also featured presenters from Washington and Michigan including Krissy Johnson, Anna Harms and Bersheril Bailey. Krissy Johnson from the Office of Superintendent and Public instruction (OSPI) from Washington who presented on their state report card highlighting data from the 2020-2021 school year. The state report card demonstrates attendance broken down by demographics within their state. A link to the full report card can be found here. Anna Harms and Bersheril Bailey presented on Michigan’s MTSS framework. One main focus of their framework includes a comprehensive screening and assessment system intended to detect early warning indicators to promote school engagement and dropout.

By the final session of the first series, state teams gathered to compare insights on how to promote more coordinated approaches to improving attendance, to take stock of their resources for supporting a tiered approach to improving attendance and identified how it could be strengthened.

The series are available to view using the links and passcodes below:

- 1.1 Building the School’s Attendance MTSS, Beginning with Prevention – Passcode: xa9Zy=L=
- 1.2 Taking a Transformational Approach to MTSS – Passcode: N&j4#rDE
- 1.3 Applying Lessons Learned – Passcode: Z3!LGukq