

Component F: Plans Moving Forward into FYY 24 Planned Evaluation Activities, Including Data Collection, Measures, and Expected Outcomes

The State will continue to implement the evaluation activities included in the SSIP Evaluation Plan submitted in Phase II. As part of Phonics First® implementation, the company that produces Phonics First® (i.e., Brainspring) plans to contract with an external research group to conduct a study of Mississippi's Phonics First® implementation. The State will also continue to collect and analyze end of the year assessment data. No other changes in evaluation activities, measures, or data collection methods are anticipated at this time.

Staff from the technical assistance unit in the OSE, as well as the SSIP literacy coaches, will continue to work with district administrators to increase response rates to surveys such as the Literacy Instruction Capacity Survey. The OSE will continue to work through issues such as high staff turnover as it continues to provide support and technical assistance to districts. SSIP literacy coaches will continue to provide coaching to teachers in areas of the five components of reading. As general education and special education teachers' capacity is built in providing effective, evidence-based literacy instruction, especially in grades K-3, it is expected that more students' needs will be met in both general education and special education settings.

Anticipated Barriers to Evaluation Activities, Including Steps to Address Barriers

MDE OSE staff will continue working to resolve identified barriers to completing the evaluation activities, including increasing the response rate on surveys. Employing SSIP Literacy Coaches will help in the OSE's efforts in increasing participation by working with the district staff to monitor the completion of surveys. For the 2020-2021 school year, the OSE employed three (3) SSIP literacy coaches and one (1) SSIP literacy coordinator. For the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, there were five (5) SSIP coaches employed to support districts with literacy needs. Requests for Applications will be released to employ additional coaches which will allow us to expand our reach across the State.

Additional Support or Technical Assistance Needed

The Mississippi Department of Education has received technical assistance from several technical assistance agencies to support the development of Phase III of the SSIP and/or the ongoing implementation of the SSIP. These include the National Association of State Directors of Special Education, the National Center for Systemic Improvement, Learning Forward, IDEA Data Center, Regional Educational Laboratory-Southeast, and WestEd. As the MDE continues the implementation of the SSIP and works to evaluate the SSIP, assistance from OSEP and national technical assistance providers will be requested as appropriate.