



State Leaders' Summit

Making a Commitment to Improve Results for Children and Youth who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

April 30 & May 1

Santa Fe, NM

State Leaders' Summit

Primary Objectives/Desired Outcomes

- ❖ Participants will connect with others across the country and will leave with ideas and information that they've learned from interactive conversations.
- ❖ States will have formed or strengthened their stakeholder teams that include parents, and state department of education, state school, and regional/outreach program leaders, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, higher education representatives, and other critical players.
- ❖ Participants will identify relevant data to be used for state system improvement planning specific to improving results for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- ❖ Participants will gain experience with analyzing data that lead to purposeful selection of strategies and services that will improve results for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- ❖ Teams will assess their state's progress in meeting the goals of the National Agenda.

April 29

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

4:00 Registration Available

April 30

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

8:00 Breakfast

8:30 Official Welcome and Kickoff

Ronald Stern, Superintendent, New Mexico School for the Deaf

Denise Koscielniak, Director, Special Education Bureau, New Mexico

Public Education Department

Judy Underhill, Parent and President, New Mexico Chapter of Hands and Voices

9:00 Keynote—Data Application for Improving Services for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Pat Spencer, PSpencer Consulting, LLC

Patricia Spencer will set the stage by taking away the mystery of, getting everyone excited about, and presenting the various need for and uses of data in very common terms. Data is not just about numbers or for evaluators; it is information that parents, teachers, administrators and state departments of education use to track

how well students are doing both individually and as a group. To use data appropriately we need to be more purposeful about using reliable and defensible data. This session will highlight the differences and similarities between data for system improvement used by state level teams, data for local program improvement decisions used by local leadership teams and data for individual student improvement used by IEP teams.

10:00 Break

10:15 Setting the Context for Data Based Improvement Planning, Richard Steffan, Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs, Lisa Kovacs, IN State Team Parent Leader, Carol Massanari, Regional Resource Center Program

Carol Massanari will introduce this session by providing a brief historical context on how we have gotten to this point and an overview of the role the State Leadership Team can play in the improvement planning process by connecting the National Goals with the state educational agency priorities that are driven by the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR).

Richard Steffan will provide a review of the SPP and the APR— a brief overview of what it is, why it is important, how it connects with NCLB, and why the SPP/APR is important to the community of educators of the deaf/hard of hearing. The purpose is to set the stage so all participants have a shared understanding of the IDEA accountability requirements, and specifically the relevance to those concerned with results for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. This introduction will be focused around:

- What is this thing called the SPP/APR— what data is actually collected?
- What are the implications of the SPP/APR for student performance?
- Which indicators are the most relevant to— or related to— results for students who are deaf/hard of hearing?
- What are the expectations of OSEP for stakeholder input relative to the SPP/APR development and implementation?

Lisa Kovacs will share some of the issues and challenges her team has encountered when trying to use data for decision making and talk about the importance of data for decision making from a parent perspective.

Participants will generate issues, challenges and questions.

11:30 Lunch

12:30 **Choosing the Data Needed for Improvement Planning, Jennifer Huisken LaPointe, Regional Resource Center Program**

This session will focus on defining data and will consist of a brief presentation along with small group activities to explore the following questions:

- What questions might teams explore to get a true picture of how students who are deaf/hard of hearing are doing relative to the findings of the SPP/APR?
- What kinds of data (i.e., data sources) are needed to help answer the questions?
- Where can teams find the data?
- Where might teams look for additional data?

Finding Meaning In Your Data, Jennifer Huisken LaPointe, Regional Resource Center Program

This session will focus on analyzing data and will provide practice using a set of data for making decisions. It will be a combination of presentation and guided activity. This session will focus on using data to conduct what is known as a drill down—that is, looking beyond a single number for answers to issues and questions related to improvement.

- How can we ensure confidence in our data (i.e., that our data are valid and reliable)?
- How do we present data in ways that are easily understood by **all** team members?
- How can teams maintain confidentiality requirements in situations where disaggregation of data could result in identifying specific students (e.g., in situations where there are small numbers involved)?
- How do we find meaning in the data and subsequently set priorities for improvement activities?

2:40 **Break**

3:00 **Keynote—Using Research Data to Identify Improvement Decisions, Susan Easterbrooks, Georgia State University**

Susan Easterbrooks will share strategies for identifying research and evidence-based improvement activities to meet priorities identified through data analysis. She will share strategies on how to make a determination if an improvement activity (e.g. an intervention, a program, a service) has sufficient research or evidence to use it; and if there is not sufficient evidence, how to establish an evaluation plan that collects data to determine if it is effective or not.

4:00 **De-Brief and Closing of the Day**

4:30 **Adjourn**

7:30 Breakfast & Jobs Alike Networking**8:30 State System Structures—An overview of the various state structures**

This session will be a presentation of the various ways in which states are structuring their delivery of services to children and youth who are deaf or hard of hearing. States will be listed with the various structures in order to allow for connections and networking after the Summit.

9:00 Examples of how data are collected, compiled, analyzed and used to make improvement decisions—Marsha Gunderson, IA State Leadership Team, Cheri Dowling, MD State Leadership Team Parent Leader

This session will highlight experiences with using data for making improvement decisions from two perspectives: SEA and parent leader. The presentations will focus on how each has used data to make decisions about improvement, how they went about identifying the data they wanted to collect/use, how they created data collection processes and systems to facilitate the data collection and analysis, and how parents have been included in the decision making process.

9:45 Break**10:00 Hot Topics Update—What is the research telling us? What are the things we should be thinking about relative to improving outcomes for children and youth who are deaf/hard of hearing? Some closing thoughts and conversation with Pat Spencer and Susan Easterbrooks****11:00 OSEP Update—Louise Tripoli, US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs****11:10 Susan Elliott—Colorado Teacher of the Year and National Teacher of the Year Finalist****11:50 Closing Comments****12:00 Lunch and Adjournment**

Box lunches will be provided for those who need to catch the shuttle for the Albuquerque airport. Others are welcome to say and chat and enjoy the Santa Fe art and shopping.

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U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs

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