

The **General Supervision, Timely and Accurate Data (GSTAD)** project is a partnership between the **Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)** Special Education and Title Services division and **Keystone Learning Services**. GSTAD supports Kansas districts by collaborating with KSDE leadership to provide professional development and technical assistance on the Kansas Integrated Accountability System, analyze and report timely and accurate data for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) State Performance Plan, and facilitate the Technical Assistance Team and a community of practice for special education administrators.

FACILITATING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

In response to school building closures as a result of COVID-19, KSDE initiated the New Frontiers Community of Practice (CoP), designed specifically to support local special education administrators. This community met virtually on a weekly basis to discuss KSDE guidance and share local implementation processes. In a feedback survey completed by 48 special education leaders, 96% of participants rated the discussion of KSDE guidance as beneficial or very beneficial. Participants indicated that the community effectively addressed the identified goals, and 73% of the respondents felt that the virtual meetings should continue beyond the pandemic.

Reflecting on the most helpful aspects of the New Frontiers CoP, special education administrators stated:

"Implementing continuous learning plans within the IDEA framework to the fullest extent possible."

"The opportunity to blend technical and adaptive conversations with colleagues. The opportunity to have facilitated conversations around needed topics and think about the practical, daily implications in addition to the legal aspects."

"The guidance and the conversation with other special education directors and leaders have helped me and my district. There is a lot of chatter out there that is incorrect, and I can help keep everyone pointed in a more constructive direction with the help of the CoP sessions."

"The CoP has assisted with providing clarity regarding the guidance from KSDE and is a morale booster to see that we are all experiencing the same challenges. I have appreciated folks sharing their resources in the chat and via the breakout sessions."

TO WHAT DEGREE HAS THE CoP ADDRESSED THE IDENTIFIED GOALS?

Percentage of 48 Special Education Administrators Answering *Mostly Addressed* or *Fully Addressed*



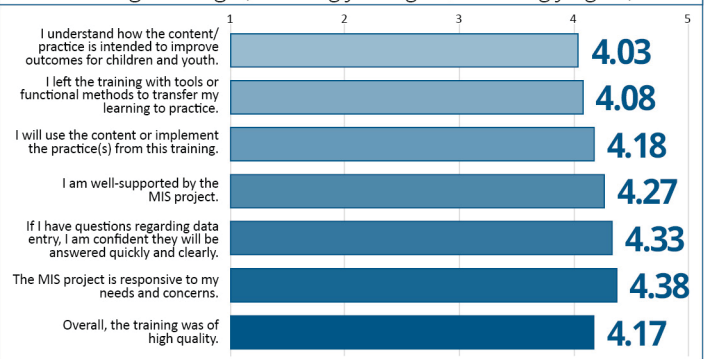
"I did like being able to watch the recorded sessions in chunks at my convenience and the follow up Q&A session was a great follow-up under the circumstances. I'd recommend recorded sessions regardless of whether in-person is implemented again because of being able to review the "word for word" guidance that isn't available from a PowerPoint presentation."

MIS Workshop Participant

KSDE, in collaboration with GSTAD, provided a virtual workshop in August 2020 to support Management Information System (MIS) data clerks and administrators in accurate and timely data reporting. A total of 141 participants attended the live two-hour session. The workshop was observed by a member of the TASN Evaluation team. Presenters met 75% of the adult learning indicators in the Reflecting on Learning and Transferring Learning to Practice domains. Following the workshop, 66 participants completed evaluations, indicating that they are equipped to implement the content.

EVALUATION RESULTS FROM 66 MIS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Average Ratings (1=Strongly Disagree, 5=Strongly Agree)



DATA ANALYSIS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The GSTAD project analyzes the accountability data collected by KSDE from all Kansas school districts and provides technical assistance to KSDE regarding the Kansas Integrated Accountability System process. These data are used for both federal reporting requirements and state accountability measures. Each year, KSDE provides targeted technical assistance to a select number of districts based on their accountability data. A 12-member Technical Assistance Team, coordinated by GSTAD, supports district leadership to adhere to compliance requirements and prepare for file reviews. In July 2020, eight Technical Assistance Team members reflected on their role and the support they received from KSDE and GSTAD. Results showed that 100% of responding team members felt valued by KSDE staff and would like to increase the proactive support they provide to districts.

When asked what they felt the Technical Assistance Team should do more of in the future, the highest priorities identified included providing:

- Consultation based on requests from district leadership
- Consultation for corrective action follow-up
- Levels of determination follow-up
- File reviews
- Facilitation support for the New Frontiers Community of Practice