

Wisconsin e-Brief for Title I Focus Schools

An e-newsletter from the Title I and School Support Team

November 2015

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing all Title I Focus Schools with consistent and timely information, the Title I and School Support Team will be providing regular e-newsletters to principals, Indistar Process Managers, and Title I coordinators. We welcome suggestions about topics you would like addressed in future editions.

Wisconsin RtI Center:

The only new requirement for the 2015-16 school year is to take the [RtI Schoolwide Implementation Review \(SIR\)](#). This is a self-assessment through the RtI Center. If you don't have your login information, you can request it by [clicking here](#). If you need additional assistance, please contact your [Regional Technical Assistance Coordinator](#).

Focus School Grants

Focus School grants are now posted to the [ESEA application](#). Your Focus School grant can be used to cover any professional development related expenses including substitutes. Once your school has met the first Indistar compliance check, please submit your Focus School budget so that we can approve it and your school can start submitting claims. Please note that all Focus schools in a district must have approved Indistar compliance checks before the district's Focus school grant can be approved.

Innovation, Implementation, and Sustainability Conference

Our third annual conference for Focus and Priority Schools was a success. We were pleased to see so many district staff, principals and teachers in attendance. We were especially pleased by the gallery walk where schools shared one or more initiatives that are having a positive impact in their school.

The first date for Indistar monitoring was **September 30!**

By September 30, you needed to have **three** active objectives in Indistar. These objectives need to be aligned to Response to Intervention (RtI), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and, for middle and high schools, Early Warning System (EWS). The DPI Focus School consultants are still reviewing submitted plans. You will receive feedback via the "coaching comments" in Indistar. Please feel free to respond to your consultant via Indistar in "coaching comments", or by email or phone.

Indistar will also be monitored on **January 15** and **June 1, 2016**.

New Focus School Consultant

Please join us in welcoming Jessica Awe to our Focus Schools team! As of January 1, 2016, Jessica will start supporting Focus Schools. Jessica is joining the team with nine years of experience in education as a bilingual teacher in Wisconsin and Texas. She also has professional development and curriculum design experience in math and science. You can contact Jessica at jessica.awe@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 264-9324.

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Professional Development Opportunities to Support your School Improvement Plan

Help Struggling Math Students Transform into Math Heroes

The RtI Center is offering a free 8-part series of monthly webinars (participate live or through the archive.) Each will be a one-hour session grounded in research and filled with practical examples from Wisconsin schools. For more information go to: <http://wisconsinrticenter.org/videos/2015-math-webinar-1.html>

Mathematics Proficiency for Every Student (MPES)

This year's conference theme is *Taking Action* and will focus on the essential elements outlined by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics recent publication, *Principles to Actions: Ensuring the Mathematical Success of All*. The conference will be held December 2-3, 2015 in Oconomowoc. Visit <http://www.wismath.org/MPES> for more information and to register.

Implementing a Culturally Responsive Multi-Level System of Support: Reviewing Universal Reading Instruction

This is a three-day, team-based workshop. Teams will learn about research and evidence-based practices that support all students at the universal level. The training will be held in Oshkosh on December 9-10 and January 19. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.wisconsinrticenter.org/event/all.html>

Engaging the Many Facets of Literacy: Wisconsin State Reading Association Conference

Registration is open for the Wisconsin State Reading Association Convention (WSRA). The dates are February 4-6, 2016. Featured speakers include:

Paul Gorski – Addressing Poverty
Chris Tovani – Secondary Literacy
Doug Fischer – Effective Instruction
Decoteau Irby – Race & Culture
Matt Glover – Early Literacy
Michael Fullan – Change Theory

Focus Schools Networking Opportunity

As in years past, we hope you will join us for our Focus School networking session on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at the Double Tree Hotel across the street from the WSRA convention.

To find out more information about the WSRA conference or to register visit:

<http://www.wsra.org/convention>

School-wide Implementation Review (SIR) Assessment for School Leadership Teams

Learn how to set up, prepare for, and take the SIR. The webinar is March 17 from 1:30 - 2:30 and is titled: School-wide Implementation Review Booster.