

### Connecting the Dots: Examining the Intersectionality Among Indicators to Inform System Improvement

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IDEA DATACollect, Report, Analyze, andCENTERUse High-Quality Part B Data





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### **Participant Outcomes**

Participants will learn how to

- Connect monitoring indicators, specifically State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), to action planning
- Build a foundation for assessing the interplay between and among indicators and using the data to inform improvement efforts
- Use the Tree of Influence to examine the interplay between monitoring and compliance indicators and the SSIP



- Importance of a systems check
- Connections between and among indicators
- Utilizing a logic model and the Tree of Influence



### Can You See the Forest Through the Trees?



#### Reflect

- Do you find yourself looking at each individual "tree/indicator/data point"?
- Do you only analyze the entire "forest/monitoring system/data system"?
- The forest is thick
  - Do you have the right tools to understand how the trees are connected?
  - Do you have the right tools to identify where to trim the trees to allow the forest to grow?



### **Importance of a Systems Check**



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### What Is a Systems Check?

An opportunity to pause and reflect

- Is the system supporting our intended/desired outcomes?
- What data fuels the system and answers our questions to support program improvement?
- How do our monitoring system processes help us in better understanding what's working and what's not, for whom, and in what contexts?

### **Systems Check: Questions to Consider**

- Is the system/data leading to informed decision making?
- Is the system/data leading to improvement for students and special education programs?
- Is the system/data identifying potential problems (e.g., compliance and local special education determinations, student outcomes, SSIP implementation) to assist LEAs through state provided technical assistance and professional development?

### **Systems Check Utilizing Tree of Influence**



Tree of Influence can help map a system or be considered a diagnostic check

- Identifies logical relationships among indicato and state level
  - Resources
  - Activities
  - Benefits
- Identifies several external factors that can impact performance planning, such as
  - Technology
  - Economics
  - Political system
  - Environment
  - Social issues



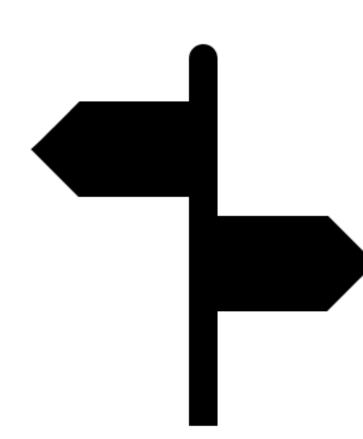
### **Connections Between and Among Indicators**





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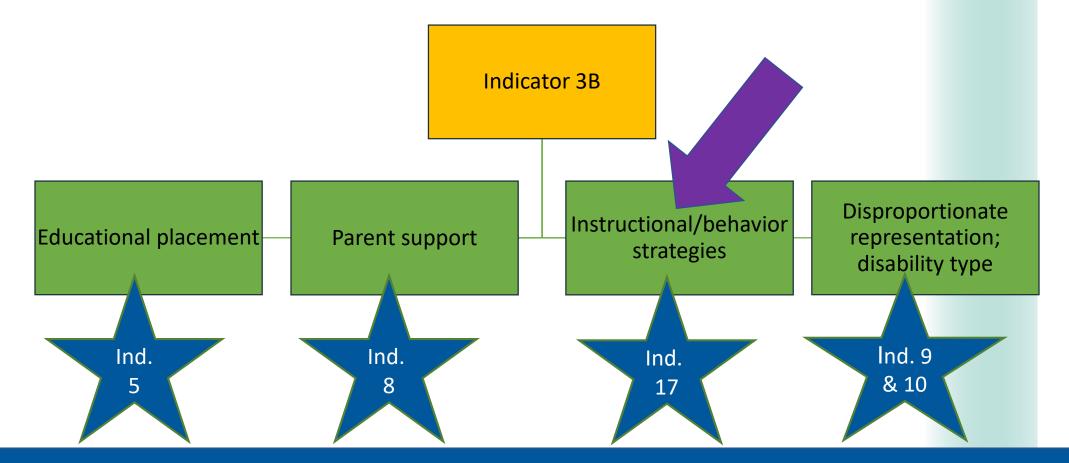
### Connections



Think specifically about indicator data

- How often do you analyze indicator data together—for example, graduation and suspension and expulsion?
- How often do LEAs analyze indicator data together—for example, the role of state assessment outcomes and least restrictive environment placement?

### Example: What Affects Proficiency Rates on Assessments? (Indicator 3B)



#### Indicator 17: State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)

- Dig into the role of the SSIP to leverage monitoring and student outcomes
- Consider an example of a State-identified Measurable Result (SiMR) focused on improving reading scores of students in grades 3–5
  - What was working well?
  - What are areas of improvement?
  - What did you learn in the SSIP process and how do you apply that learning to other indicators and analysis?
  - How can the SSIP work lead to improved outcomes?

## Utilizing a Logic Model and Tree of Influence





### **Understanding Logic Models**

- Logic models are effective tools to assist in planning, implementation, and evaluation of projects, initiatives, and/or new systems
- Logic models consider the role of inputs, outputs, and outcomes
- Similar to the SSIP's logic model, the Tree of Influence is a more in-depth process to review data, understand the monitoring system, and identify ways that indicator data influence one another

### Layers of a Logic Model Within a Tree



External factors that State level infrastructure influence state performance Education systems planning Inputs (resources invested to achieve outcomes) Outputs (strategies and activities conducted) Intermediate outcomes (changes in behavior, decision-making) Long-term outcomes

> (graduation, social wellbeing, etc.)

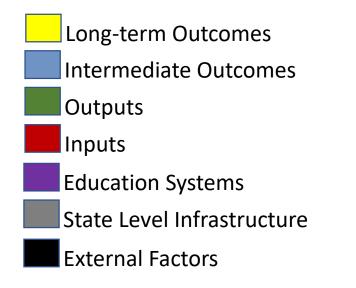
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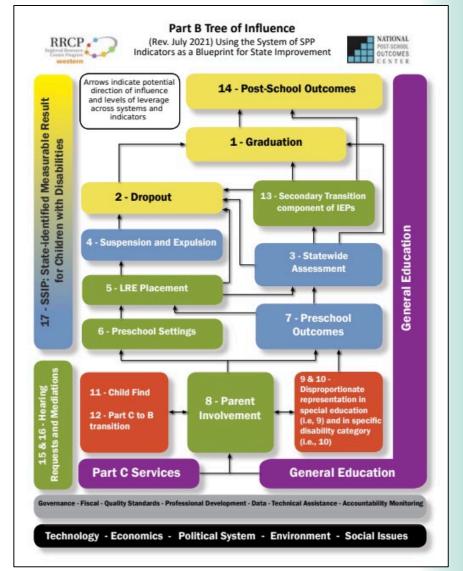
### **Growing Your Tree**

- Start with the end in mind
- What is the ultimate goal that you want for students with disabilities?
  - Graduation (Indicator 1) and Post-School Outcomes (Indicator 14)
- What indicator directly affects Graduation (Indicator 1)?
  - Dropout (Indicator 2)
- How do you prevent Dropout (Indicator 2)?
  - Consider instruction, behavior, special education placement
- What indicators support these categories?



#### Tree of Influence/ Logic Model Example (OK)





Source: https://transitionta.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/Tree\_of\_Influence.pdf.

### **Interested in Growing Your Tree?**

- Would it be helpful to dig into your data, data system, and/or monitoring system?
- Want to create a Tree of Influence/logic model to better understand how data influences other aspects of the system?
- IDC is here for YOU!



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### Remember...

- The forest is thick and the tools that are in place need to be working
- The forest cannot exist without the trees, but within the SEA we need to make sure that every "tree" counts and serves a meaningful purpose



### **Contact Us**



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# What actions will you take to commit to being a Data Quality Influencer?





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### **For More Information**



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