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Volume 2, Issue 1

**From the Laptop of Meg Porcella, Vermont's MTSS Bridge Project Coordinator**

**Spotlight: 2017-2018 SSIP Project, by Tonya Rutkowski**

**vtMTSS Village: Moodle, part 2**

**Upcoming Training  
2016-2017 Save the Dates!**

**Math Edcamp Dates:**

Registration coming soon!  
December 11, 2017  
February 8, 2018  
April 5, 2018

**Literacy:**

Partnerships for Literacy and Learning (formerly VRI at UVM) [Workshops and Conferences](#)

**PBIS:**

[Classroom Behavior Practice Coaching Opportunity](#)



## From the Laptop of Meg Porcella, VT's MTSS Bridge Project Coordinator

Welcome to the Bridge Project! This project is intended to serve as a bridge between the MTSS implementation work begun during the last State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) and the next SPDG project for Vermont. The Bridge Project coordinates technical assistance, resources, professional learning, and guidelines to Supervisory Unions' and Districts' leadership teams to support tiered systemic approaches to initiating, implementing, and sustaining school-wide efforts consistent with Title 16 and Vermont's Education Quality Standards. In addition, the Bridge Project work is designed to facilitate the implementation of coordinating initiatives, including Early-Aligned MTSS as well as literacy, math, and Universal Design for Learning for building-level instructional coaches.

The Bridge Project MTSS professional learning will focus on the systemic and comprehensive approach of the SU/SD transformation/leadership teams. The Bridge Project MTSS professional learning will be offered in a way that we hope will be individualized and differentiated to meet the specific needs of each site. We recognize that after three to five years of being involved in this project, sites are in very different places in their implementation of MTSS. We also recognize that there is a need for professional learning to emphasize the manner through which seemingly disparate initiatives support each other in the service of Vermont students. We are still planning to provide some form of external systems coaching to help the SU/SD implementation/leadership team support the school teams in their implementation of MTSS.

I will use this monthly newsletter in conjunction with the external systems coaches to provide information about upcoming training sessions offered to participants of this project.

## Spotlight: 2017-2018 SSIP Project

We are pleased to share information regarding the ongoing work of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). This work would not be possible without continued efforts from local leadership teams and the support from families and stakeholders throughout Vermont. Although the SSIP focuses on improving proficiency of math performance for students identified as having an emotional disturbance in grades 3, 4, and 5, leadership teams are also committed to furthering the Agency's focus on developing a continuum of supports for all students in Vermont schools. Major SSIP accomplishments this summer included laying the foundation for building capacity at both the state and the local levels through

- Engaging in a continuous improvement process as we look to align state and local initiatives for improved student outcomes,
- Restructuring the state level leadership team for better efficiency and effectiveness, and
- Implementing an agreement of responsibilities between the AOE and local leadership teams, and supporting our local leadership teams at the supervisory union/school district level (not just school level).

## SSIP, Continued

As we begin this school year, we are excited to offer the following professional learning opportunities for SSIP sites:

- MTSS Implementation external systems coaching at the SU/SD team level
- Math Professional learning
- Family Engagement and the IEP
- Trauma Informed Schools
- Educational Benefit Reviews
- Universal Design for Learning

As is outlined in the Agreement of Responsibility, there are different requirements for participation in the professional learning. For questions about the SSIP work in Vermont, or specific information around participation in the professional learning, please contact Cindy Moran, State Director of Special Education at [cindy.moran@vermont.gov](mailto:cindy.moran@vermont.gov). Also, please continue to monitor this newsletter for more details and registration information for the professional learning sessions.

## It Takes a Village: vtMTSS Moodle Site, Part 2



Once again, I want to draw attention to our Moodle site. In addition to the six learning portals available to those who log into the Moodle site, Universal Design for Learning, Specific Learning Disabilities, Secondary Transition vtMTSS Academy, MTSS Literacy, Math, and Early MTSS, we've added a "course" called [Vermont MTSS/SWIFT Tools & Resources](#). From the Home screen, scroll down to the Available Courses. The members of the AOE's MTSS team, along with the Bridge Project team have recommended materials to include, and we will continue to post tools and resources associated with MTSS implementation there.

Chances are good that you have a username and password already associated with the Moodle. However, if you can't find it, please email me at [meg.porcella@vermont.gov](mailto:meg.porcella@vermont.gov), and I'll get you what you need to be able to utilize the Moodle resources. [Access the vtMTSS Moodle site.](#)