

State Personnel Development Grant

The Newsletter for Vermont's SPDG

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Volume 1, Issue 4

From the Laptop of SPDG5 by
Meg Porcella, SPDG Co-
Director

**Spotlight: ESSA Public
Comment Window**

**Data Snapshot: Evaluation
Survey Data [Please take the
survey](#) if you have not already
done so.**

**vtMTSS Village: Project
SEARCH HS Transition Program**



From the Laptop of Meg Porcella, Co-Director: The Next State Personnel Development Grant

In August the SPDG management team created a subcommittee to start the process of writing the next SPDG proposal. While we wait for the SPDG Request for Proposals to be released from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), we have met with different stakeholder groups and gathered information to draft the proposal. As a result of our many stakeholder meetings, both internally at the Agency of Education and externally around Vermont, we have established that one of our goals is "to improve the capacity of Leadership Teams at the AOE, Supervisory Union/Supervisory District, and school levels to support implementation of a MTSS framework." The content focus will be "to increase the percent of Vermont's Pre-K through 8th grade students who are proficient in mathematics." By emphasizing math, the SPDG will continue to align its work with the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP).

Our intention is to maintain support for professional learning and coaching for those of you currently pursuing a content area other than mathematics. Additionally, we will continue our partnerships with VT PBIS and the Vermont Reads Initiative. Finally, we will ensure ongoing support for the transition from preschool to kindergarten Early MTSS work that is taking place in four of the current SPDG schools, as well as several other non-SPDG sites.

Many of the proposal details still need to be finalized to include the budgets. And, of course, all of our work is pending OSEP's ability to issue the RFP and fund the program. As I've said for the past several months, please stay tuned, and I will use this forum to share details as they become available.

Spotlight: ESSA Public Comment Window

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) project managers have asked us to share with our partners and colleagues the public comment window for Vermont's State Plan closes on February 11, 2017.

If you are interested in sharing your input, please follow the link below to the [ESSA page](#) on the AOE website. There you will find the plan broken into several sections, each accompanied by a brief narrated overview and a link to survey for comment. Share your thoughts on the entire plan or just on the sections of most interest to you.

We ask that you pass this information along to your colleagues and stakeholders who might be interested in providing feedback. If you have questions about the public comment process, please [email Chris Case](#) or call 802-479-1179; or [email Patrick Halladay](#) or call (802) 479-1712.

Upcoming Training 2016-2017 Save the Dates!

Upcoming training opportunities through the SPDG will be posted here. Contact your systems coach with questions about registration.

Literacy:
[VRI at UVM Event](#)

Behavior:
[PBIS PD Calendar](#)

Project SEARCH Testimony

Students have developed a strong sense of their strengths and discovered opportunities for the future they hadn't considered. They see a future for themselves they had not envisioned prior to Project SEARCH.

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The VT SPDG page coming soon to:
education.vermont.gov

Data Snapchat: Evaluation Survey Response

Back in December we asked for your views on post-training evaluation surveys. Our aim was to use actual opinions to help with the manner through which we asked for feedback around professional learning associated with the grant. We received five responses, which is about 6 percent of the total, if we conservatively assume that there are about 75 or so SPDG/MTSS leadership team members who are sent the newsletter in an email. The preliminary data suggests that:

1. A majority of you (60 percent) feel that it's "Very Important" to complete the end of training survey.
2. 100 percent of you indicated that a "link to an online site, such as SurveyMonkey or Google forms, that you complete before leaving the training/meeting" is the key to the survey's being completed.
3. Three of you "Always" complete the post-training survey, while two of you "Sometimes" complete it.

Thank you very much to those of you who took part in our data gathering experiment. [Take the survey online](#). We invite those of you who haven't responded to do so.

It Takes a Village: Project SEARCH High School Transition Program

In 2013, the VT State Personnel Development Grant supported the development and implementation of two new VT Project SEARCH sites. The VT Project SEARCH Leadership Team includes representation from the Agency of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, the VT Developmental Disability Services, and host businesses. Local teams include representatives from these same organizations, as well as personnel from area schools and community organizations. At each internship site, a classroom teacher and two job coaches work with the Project SEARCH interns and establish intern sites throughout the site. Each class day, there is at least one hour of class time and five hours of internship time. Interns rotate through at least three internship sites, each year. At the beginning of each rotation, there is a two-week period of full class time while the interns debrief the previous internship, and plan for the next internship site.

Nine high school students with disabilities from Chittenden County completed the year as Project SEARCH interns at The Edge, a sports and fitness company with five locations in Burlington. Internships included: administration, front desk, child care, pre-school, indoor/outdoor maintenance, aquatics/pool maintenance, fitness department, group exercise, & day care. The seven graduating interns were employed in these settings: The Edge, Panera, Dollar Tree, Eco Car Wash, Grocery, Once Upon a Child, and Toys R Us. Five high school students with disabilities from Rutland County completed the year as Project SEARCH interns at Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC). The RRMC is a 123-bed hospital. Internships included: outpatient rehab, finance, human resources, education & training, gift shop, medical records, IT, heart center, print shop/mail room, & food & nutrition services. The five graduating interns were employed in these settings: RRMC, Dunkin Donuts, Burger King, and Green Mountain Power.