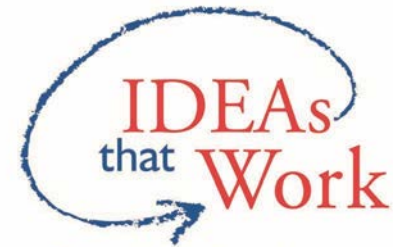


# SPDG family partners Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Meetings of PTIs and CPRCs who partner with state SPDGs and now, Allies!

January 24, 2025



Office of Special Education Programs  
U.S. Department of Education

# Key players!

## **OSEP:**

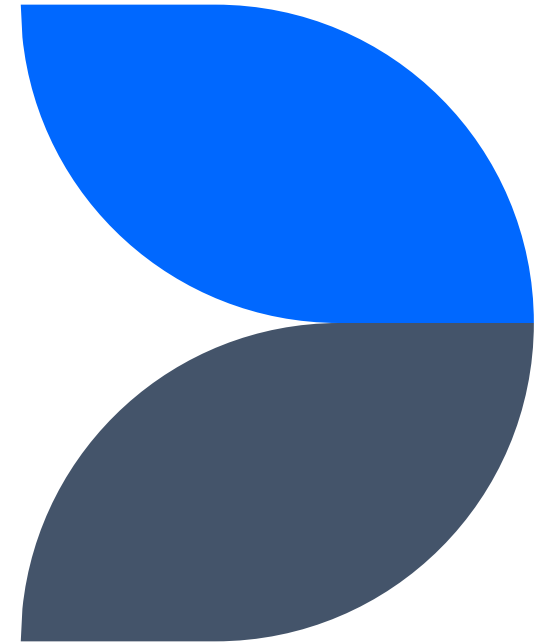
Jennifer Coffey

Sunyoung Ahn

Carmen Sanchez

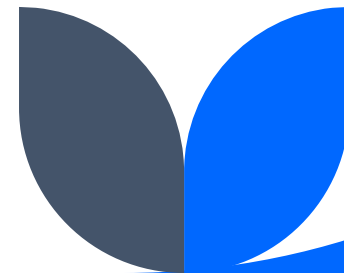
## **SIGNET:**

John Lind



# Agenda

- Introductions and Check Ins
- Updates from OSEP
- Where have we been?
- Expanding our Workgroup
- Wrap up, next meeting date of this expanded allies group: May 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday), 11AM – 12:30 Eastern
- Core group of PTIs and CPRCs: March 28, 2025, 11 AM – Noon eastern



# Welcome to Our Expanded Members!

Together we will tackle how to share the story of:

- (a) the importance of family engagement,
- (b) how partnering with a PTI or CPRC can further family engagement efforts and the overall impact of the SPDG, and
- (c) what successful partnership models could look like.



# Introductions and Check In

Share your **name, affiliation parent, focus** of your state's SPDG.

Share one point or piece of research, data, story, experience that is **your 'go to'** to demonstrate the value of family engagement.



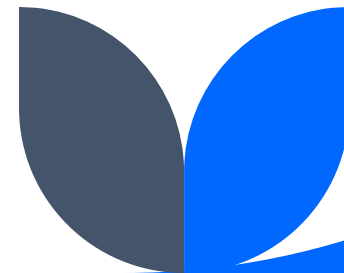
# Updates from OSEP & SIGNetwork

- SIGnet [Newsletter](#)
- Applications for the FY 2025 Competition are due February 18th. The notice is generally the same as last year.
- Current SIGnetwork communities:
  - Early Childhood
  - Including Children with Significant Needs
  - Social-emotional Learning
  - MTSS
  - Native American Working Group



# Materials from these meetings

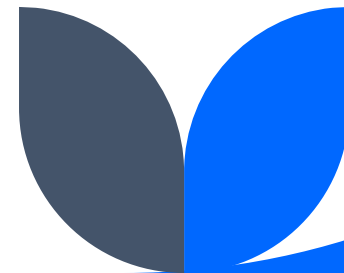
SIGNET pages at <https://signetwork.org/communities-of-practice-resources-recordings/>



# Where have we been?

Starting w meeting of PTIs and CPRCs at the national Family Leadership conference in DC, October 2022, 12 workgroup Meetings have been held:

- Attendance range = 11 to 21 attendees
- Presentations on family partner roles in SPDGs in Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia
- Completed Purpose to Practice, a Liberating Structure, work with Jennifer Coffey in May 2024
- Shared ideas for Family Engagement measures for APRs, Sept 2024
- Groups of family engagement allies have met at SPDG annual meetings in DC, 10/23 and 10/24





# Some takeaways from Purpose to Practice from May 2024, facilitated by Jennifer Coffey

## Principles

- Family engagement in systems change/improvement efforts contributes to improved outcomes of students. Family Voice is essential in education.
- Parent voice is critical to engaging more parent voice
- Infusing family engagement into MTSS has to be like breathing- it no longer has to be "remembered", it's just done.
- Families are key partners who can learn and practice advocacy skills while participating in system change
- School administrators **MUST** buy in, promote, and support parent participation



# Ideas for Family Partnership Practices

from P2P

- Exploration of best practices in training and supporting families as advisors in school improvement.
- Help school staff understand that Family Engagement is more than the bake sale!
- (Focus on) how using the practice of MTSS will change Family Engagement Practices
- Teach the concept of partnership to parents and professionals. Help everyone to see the value of creating connections.
- Training initiatives that better align school and family partnerships.
- Exploration of best practices in training & supporting families as advisors in school improvement
- Build time in an educator's day for Family Engagement. Create district and school expectations for educators to plan and communicate to families.
- Schools (need to) ask what does family engagement looks like in each new initiative.
- More parent involvement, larger school community involved; increased literacy scores
- Within our SPDG, helping to really operationalize shared MTSS leadership and shared decision-making at all tiers is a BIG need.

# Next Steps from Purpose to Practice

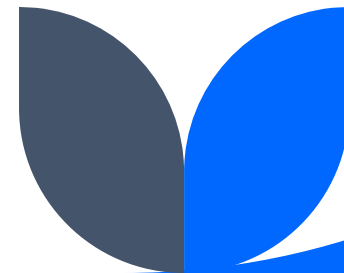
How can we better engage SPDG grant recipients as part of our meetings and processes? How can we build more of a collaborative amongst the various SPDG projects to better align the family engagement piece?

- It could be fruitful to invite project staff to join the meeting and discuss their projects. This could be done in conjunction with “allies” from SPDG projects that are doing this work.
- Encouraging families to learn alongside educators.
- Would be helpful for them to hear from other parent centers.
- Connecting with other family engagement ‘allies’ is desirable, but not every meeting.
- Ultimately, present and provide other resources FOR SPDG leadership on WHY and HOW family engagement can result in positive student and school outcomes.



# Where we can focus collective action now...

- (a) the importance of family engagement,
- (b) how partnering with a PTI or CPRC can further family engagement efforts and the overall impact of the SPDG, and
- (c) what successful partnership models could look like

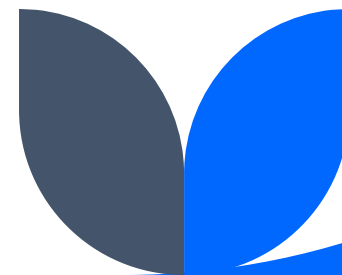


**REMINDER** - FY 2024 SPDG had *Absolute Priority 3: Improving Engagement between Schools and Families*.

Projects designed to develop the capacity of administrators and educators to develop systems and use strategies that build trust and engagement with families, while further strengthening the role families play in their child's development and learning. Projects must—

(a) Provide training and coaching to assist administrators to—

(1) Develop and implement policies and programs that recognize families' funds of knowledge, connect family engagement to student learning, and create welcoming, inviting cultures; and



(2) Create systems that support staff and families in meaningful engagement ( *i.e.*, Leading by Convening and the Dual-Capacity Framework. For more information visit [www.dualcapacity.org](http://www.dualcapacity.org) and [www.ncsi.wested.org/resources/leading-by-convening](http://www.ncsi.wested.org/resources/leading-by-convening));

(b) Provide training and coaching to assist educators and early intervention providers to—

(1) Build their knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, aspirations, and behaviors about effective strategies to engage families in their child's learning;

(2) Work with families to make collaborative, data-based decisions in the development and implementation of the child's IEP; and



(3) Provide information and resources to families that enable them to support their children's learning and behavior at home; and

(c) Provide training and coaching to families so they can—

(1) Meaningfully participate in the development and implementation of their child's IEP;

(2) Participate in data-based decision making related to their child's education; and

(3) Further their child's learning at home.



# Expansion Proposal

Schedule of alternating meeting with our 'core' group of PTI/CPRCs (including those from the newly funded 2024 projects), and the 'expanded' group of allies.





# The meeting plan

- January 24, 2025- 11 AM- Noon Eastern- Expanded group
- March 28, 2025- 11 AM – Noon eastern- Core group
- May 16 (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday), 2025- 11AM – 12:30 Eastern – Expanded group with focus of the meeting on the 4 new 2024 SPDG projects (NH, ND, WI, WY) and their plans to address family engagement, per the absolute priority 3 in the RFP. The calendar invite for the May meeting will be changed.

