

Measuring Fidelity: Integrated MTSS and Systems Coaching

Fidelity Fridays: SPDG Special Interest Group

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Icebreaker

What's the best thing about being in our field today?



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Today's Focus

- Recent Developments in Fidelity of Implementation (FOI) Measurement
 - -Systems coaching
 - Integrated MTSS (I-MTSS)

- Small group and whole group discussions
 - Resources at the end
- Questions and comments welcome at any time



Objectives

- Learn the latest developments in measuring I-MTSS and systems coaching fidelity.
- Reflect on how your context currently approaches measuring fidelity of I-MTSS and systems coaching.
- Identify actions steps you can take to further improve fidelity measurement.

We Acknowledge The Common Challenges

Examples:

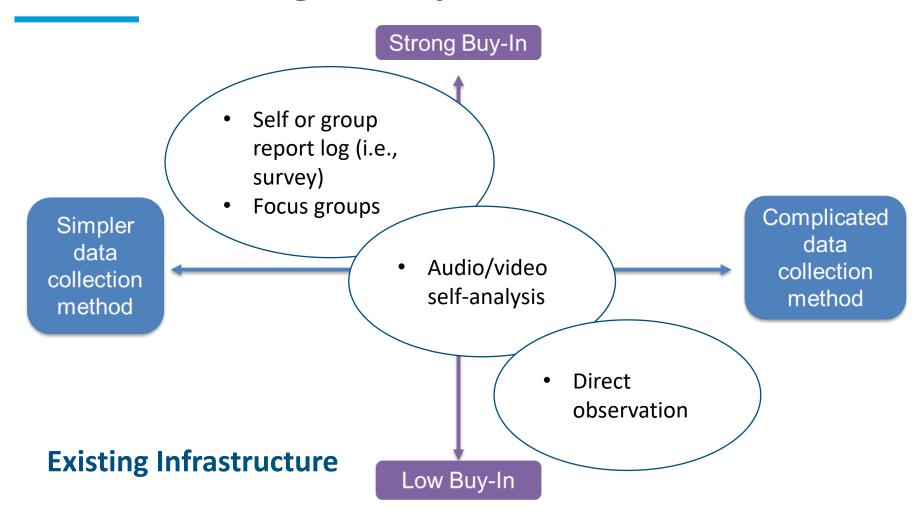
- Feasibility (e.g., time, personnel)
- Need for multiple measures (e.g., reading, math, school level, etc)
- Views
- Availability of measures in area of need
- Difficult to use data meaningful
- Unclear purpose
- Turnover



Recommendations for Measuring Fidelity

- Identify the questions you want to answer (i.e., research/evaluation questions).
- Consider the data collection strategies that users prefer and that are simple rather than complex.
- Measure as many aspects of fidelity as possible (i.e., adherence, dose, quality, responsiveness).
- Leverage existing infrastructure (i.e., What do we already have in place?).
- If you collect the data, use the data!

Make Measuring Fidelity Easier!





Recent Developments in Fidelity Measurement



Systems Coaching FOI

Requirements of a Fidelity Measure

- All fidelity measures are assessments but not every assessment is a fidelity measure.
- To be a fidelity measure, it must provide data on one or more aspects of fidelity:
 - Quality
 - Exposure (i.e., dose, frequency, duration)
 - Responsiveness of staff and/or students
 - Adherence to essential features
 - Program specificity (i.e., differentiation; how well the innovation is defined and different from other innovations)

Gage et al., 2020; McKenna et al., 2014; NCII, n.d.., O'Donnel, 2008; Ryan et al., 2024

Measuring Systems Coaching Fidelity

- Few measures exist.
- Nearly all reflect research that defines systems coaching as a strategy for supporting tiered systems implementation.
- One measure (a self-report) has been tested for its psychometric properties. *Is it a fidelity measure?*
- All measures reflect similar knowledge and skills (i.e., practices), and are grounded in the project/state's definition of coaching.
- Most measures rely on self-reports; 1 uses direct observation.

♦AIR

Self-Report of Knowledge and Skills (and Quality?)

Reflects Oregon's expected definition of coaching

APPENDIX 6.1

tems Coach Self-Assessment

Ryan Jackson and Erin A. Chaparro ng and Learning, University of Oregon, 2014

Years of Coaching Experience:

paching and content skills required of Systems Coaches ation of Effective Behavioral and Instructional Support Syste upport (MTSS). You can use this self-assessment as a tool to

goals for your own professional development. You can also share these results with your district the district office can support you with the appropriate professional development.

Please identify if you:

Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Agree (3), Strongly Agree (4)

A. EBISS Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs):

I have the knowledge and skills to implement

- 1. Scientifically validated or evidence-based tiered programs for reading.
- I am fluent with this knowledge 1 2 3 4
- I am skilled to coach others in this area
- 2. Scientifically-validated or evidence-based tiered programs for behavior.
- I am fluent with this knowledge ① ② ③ ④
- I am skilled to coach others in this area (2) (3)
- 3. Screening of all students to identify students at risk of poor outcomes (reading and behavior).
 - I am fluent with this knowledge
- I am skilled to coach others in this area
- 4. Progress monitoring to assess student's reading and behavioral performance, student's rate of improvement, and responsiveness to instruction.

I am fluent with this knowledge

I am skilled to coach others in this area

Elements of this assessment were informed by the work of the National Implementation Research Network (nirn.fpg.ui and the Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (pbis.org). Specific references a

The development of this assessment was supported by the Oregon Department of Education, through ED Grant No. H323A060007 to the University of Oregon. Reprinted with permission from Kathleen Ryan Jackson and Erin A. Chapa

From Integrated Multt-Tiered Systems of Support: Blending RTI and PBIS by Kent McIntosh and Steve Goodma right © 2016 The Guilford Press. Permission to photocopy this appendix is granted to purchasers of this book for use or use with individual students (see copyright page for details).

Reflects Florida's definition of coaching Tested for psychometric nronerties

Directions: Please read each states current role and then rate your abil question is about your personal skil following response scale:

	Personal Sk	propertie
= Not Skilled (NS)	I do not have	
= Minimally Skilled (MnS)	I have minimal skins in tims area; need substantial support to use it.	this skill.
= Somewhat Skilled (SS)	I have this skill, but still need some support to use it.	I need some support to teach this skill.
= Highly Skilled (HS)	I can use this skill with little support.	I can teach this skill with little support.
= Very Highly	I am very highly skilled in this	I can teach this skill independently.

Interpersonal Communication Skills

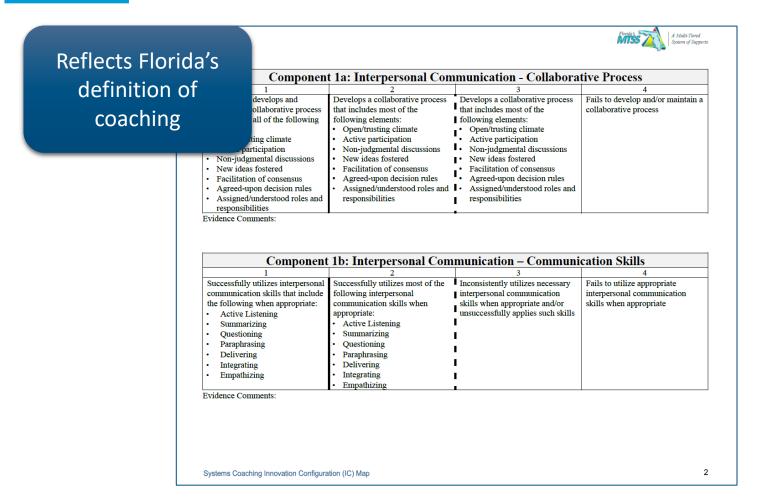
NS MnS SS HS VHS

- 1. Develop and maintain a collaborative relationship when working with others
 - a. Your skill level
 - b. Your ability to teach this skill
- 2. Develop consensus among a group of individuals
 - a. Your skill level
 - b. Your ability to teach this skill
- Ensure roles, responsibilities, and rules for decision-making (e.g., conflict, logistics, norms, etc.) are understood and agreed upon among a group of individuals working together
 - a. Your skill level
 - b. Your ability to teach this skill
- 4. Summarize and paraphrase others' thoughts and statements for clarification and to confirm accuracy
 - a. Your skill level
 - b. Your ability to teach this skill

EBISS; Thoman, Sarah E., "Evaluation of the Psychometric Properties of the Systems Coaching Survey" (2019). Graduate Theses and Dissertations. https://scholarcommons.usr.edu/etd//970



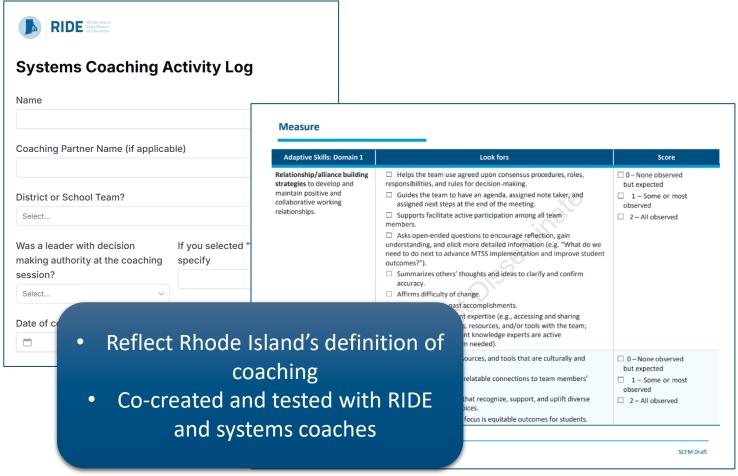
Self-Report of Skills, Knowledge, and Quality



https://floridarti.usf.edu/resources/format/pdf/Systems%20Coaching%20IC.pdf



Self-Report Log and Direct Observation Fidelity Measures of Adherence, Dose, and Quality



https://web.miniextensions.com/vfaltJ9LWB33NwqMgIf8

Reflection and Discussion

- How has systems coaching been measured in your context, if at all? How are the data used? What did you learn from the data?
- Share the challenges you face in your context with measuring fidelity of systems coaching. How have others productively addresses these concerns?
- If you haven't yet started measuring systems coaching fidelity, how might you get started this?



I-MTSS FOI

What is I-MTSS?



Name of tiered system of support	Other names	Purpose	Distinguishing feature of tiered system
Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), Schoolwide PBIS (Sugai & Horner, 2009)	 Effective Behavior Support (EBS; Lewis & Sugai, 1999) PBS (Sugai & Horner, 2002) MTSS-Behavior (MTSS-B; Sugai & Horner, 2020) 	Improving student social-emotional behavioral (SEB) outcomes	Focused on providing behavior and/or social-emotional supports
Response to Intervention (RTI ; Fuchs et al., 2003)	 Response to Instruction (Kame'enui & Simmons, 1998) MTSS-Reading (MTSS-R; Baker et al., 2010) 	Improving student academic outcomes	Focused on providing academic supports
Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS ; Sugai & Horner, 2009)	State-specific names	Improving student academic and SEB outcomes	Focused on providing academic and SEB supports
Integrated MTSS (I- MTSS; McIntosh & Goodman, 2016)	 Comprehensive Integrated Three-Tier models (Ci3T; e.g., Lane et al., 2009) Interconnected Systems Framework (ISE; e.g., Eber et al., 2020) 	Improving student academic and SEB outcomes	Focused on providing strategically combined academic and SEB supports



Measuring I-MTSS Fidelity

- Many measures exist for measuring tiered systems (e.g., RTI, PBIS, MTSS).
- Many, particularly PBIS tools, have strong psychometric properties.
- Only 1 I-MTSS measure has been tested, and has strong reliability, content validity, structural validity, and social validity.

Preview A Draft Resource!

Measuring Tiered Systems of Support: Decision Guide



Background and Purpose

Given that many tools exist for measuring tiered systems of support, it can be hard deciding which tool to use. Some tools are focused on the behavioral "side" of a tiered system (e.g., the Tiered Fidelity Inventory; Algozzine et al., 2019), while others are focused on the academic "side" of a tiered system (e.g., Reading Tiered Fidelity; St. Martin et al., 2015). Other tools aim to measure both sides of a tiered system, like the MTSS Fidelity of Implementation Rubric (AIR®, 2023). One tool, the Integrated MTSS Fidelity Rubric, or IMFR (Gandhi et al., 2024), assesses the degree to which a school strategically combines the academic and behavior "sides" of a tiered system. Consider the three questions below to help your school/district make an informed decision about assessing tiered systems. Then, use Table 2 to select a measure.

What are you trying to implement? First, identify what the school/district intends to implement.
Think carefully about this, because what your school/district intends to implement may be different
from what is being implemented. Review Table 1 to identify which tiered system your school is
implementing, regardless of what that system is called.

Table 1. Types of Tiered Systems of Support

Name of tiered system of support	Other names	Purpose	Distinguishing feature of tiered system
Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), Schoolwide PBIS (Sugai & Horner, 2009)	Effective Behavior Support (EBS; Lewis & Sugai, 1999) PBS (Sugai & Horner, 2002) MTSS-Behavior (MTSS-B; Sugai & Horner, 2020)	Improving student behavioral outcomes	Focused on providing behavior supports
Response to Intervention (RTI; Fuchs et al., 2003)	Response to Instruction (Kame'enui & Simmons, 1998) MTSS-Reading (MTSS-R; Baker et al., 2010)	Improving student academic outcomes	Focused on providing academic supports

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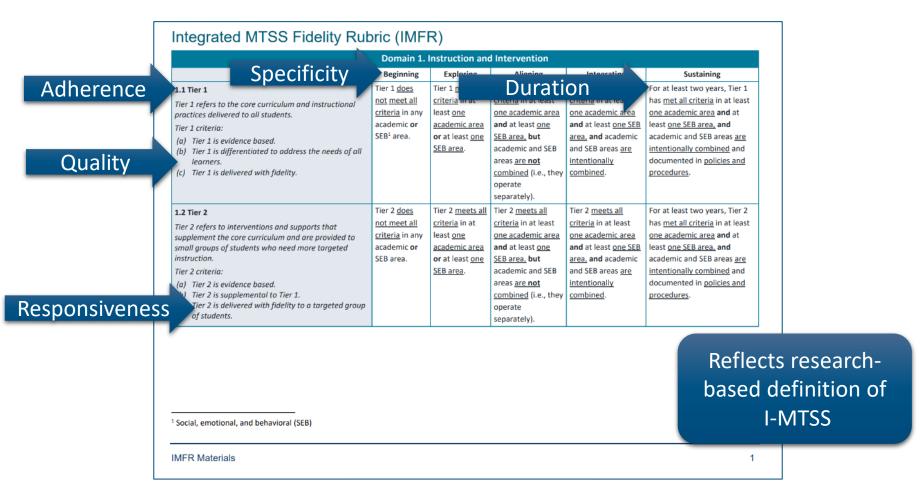


Developments: Measuring I-MTSS Fidelity

- Aspects of fidelity addressed in the IMFR:
 - Quality
 - Exposure (i.e., dose/frequency)
 - Responsiveness of staff and/or students
 - Adherence to essential features
 - Program specificity (i.e., program differentiation; how well the innovation is defined and different from other innovations)

Barrett, 2012; Bradshaw et al., 2021; Chaparro et al., 2021; Hawkins, et al., 2019; Freeman et al., 2017; Forman, 2015;, Pierce, 2024; Young et al., 2021

Self-Report of 5 Aspects of Fidelity



Gandhi et al., 2024



Reflection on Tiered Systems Measurement

- What questions do you answer or want to answer about tiered systems implementation? Consider adherence, dose, responsiveness, and quality.
- Which data collection strategy (or, strategies) allow you to best answer those questions, considering the factors of buy-in and complexity presented on the prior slide? Why?
- Which measures are used in your context to measure tiered systems FOI? How are the data used? What did you learn?
- How have you handled using multiple FOI measures, if that has occurred in your context?
- If you haven't yet started measuring tiered systems fidelity, how might you get started this?
- Share the challenges you face in your context with measuring fidelity tiered systems. How have others productively addresses these concerns?



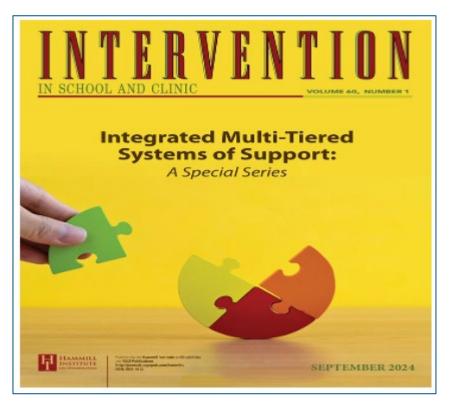


Resources and Wrap Up

Special Series: Intervention in School and Clinic

- Focused on I-MTSS
- Articles are all open access and available to everyone.





https://mtss.org/intervention-in-school-and-clinic-special-series/



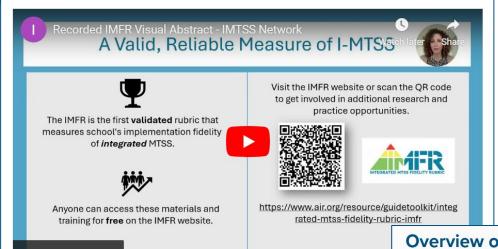
What Integrated Practices "Look Like"



Domain	Examples of integrated practices
Instruction and intervention	 Embedding language of schoolwide or classwide SEB expectations into academic instruction Reinforcing schoolwide or classwide SEB expectations during an academic lesson using praise or a token economy system Building relationships with students
	Identifying root cause of behavior and academic struggles
	 Embedding academic behaviors into Check-in Check-out charts Collaboration between behavior support specialists and academic interventionists Embedding components of Behavior Intervention Plan into core instruction and academic interventions
Assessment	 Exporting academic and SEB data from electronic assessment programs into a program that will display all data together
	 School leaders ensuring grade level data teams and relevant staff have access to academic and SEB data for all students
	 Training teachers and staff in how to manage and use data program to create data dashboards that are shared with all relevant staff
DBDM	 Data decision rules that include academic and SEB data to match or adapt interventions Grade level data team reviewing student screening data for academics and SEB then uses the building data decision rules to identify students who need additional supports and plan the focus for instruction and intervention
	 Prioritizing conversations about how academic and SEB screening data are reviewed to determine if/how SEB concerns are impacting academics, and vice versa
	 Academic and SEB data aggregated at the school level are reviewed and used collectively to understand I-MTSS at a systems level

Majeika et al. (2024)

The IMFR and I-MTSS (AIR)



Additional videos and resources on I-MTSS: https://mtss4success.org/resource/integrated-mtss-rubric

Get the IMFR:

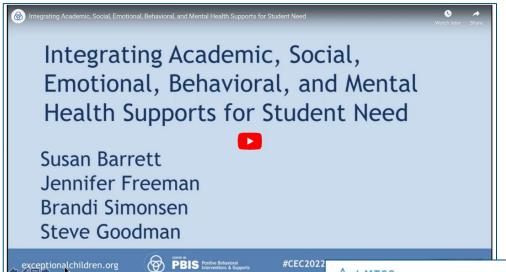
https://www.air.org/resource/guideto olkit/integrated-mtss-fidelity-rubricimfr





Watch on YouTube

Other I-MTSS Resources



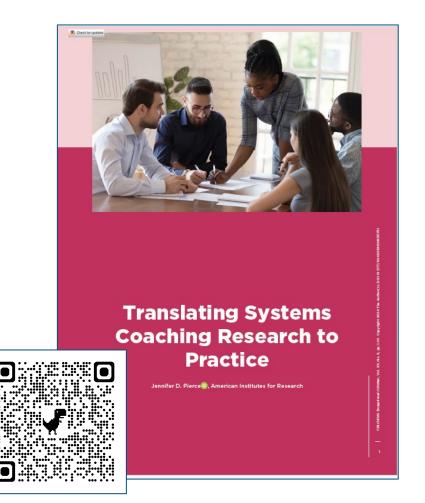
Video on Integration:

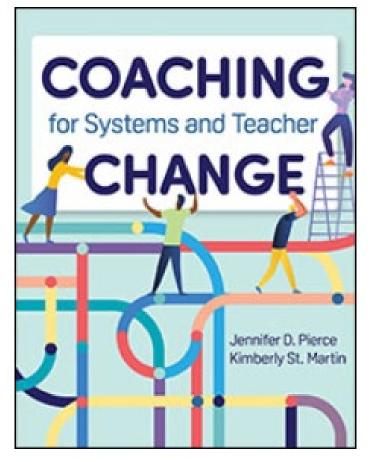
https://www.pbis.org/video/integratingacademic-social-emotional-behavioral-andmental-health-supports-for-student-need

I-MTSS Network: https://mtss.org/



Systems Coaching Resources





Pierce (2024); Pierce & St. Martin (2023)

Reach Out for Additional Support!

Maximize Your Systems Coaching Program



Systems Coaching:

A strategy for improving how

emotional, and behavioral

without disabilities.

teams achieve schoolwide change

to improve the academic, social,

outcomes of student with and

Training builds knowledge, but systems coaching is necessary for improving teams' skills for achieving schoolwide change.

AIR's innovative and comprehensive services are designed to help our clients use systems coaching.

Our Services

We help you implement systems coaching. The cornerstone of our services is to build the capacity of State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to successfully implement systems coaching. We deliver high-quality, ongoing professional learning and technical assistance for systems coaches so that their work with teams is data-based, actionoriented, collaborative, and aligned with school and student improvement goals. Moreover, our work aligns with SEA and LEA efforts to achieve improved outcomes for all students.

Outcomes that Matter

SEAs and LEAs working with AIR will implement a research-based model of systems coaching for teams.

By working with AIR, SEAs and LEAs can expect to:

- ✓ Understand systems coaching research and its practical applications
- √ Develop a feasible system coaching role
- ✓ Set achievable goals for systems coaching
- ✓ Collect and use data to identify the impact of systems coaching and to continuously improve its use
- ✓ Bring together staff to employ a coherent model of systems coaching
- ✓ Develop systems coaches' knowledge and skills in their role through professional learning opportunities
- √ Improve how teams lead and monitor schoolwide change efforts and improve outcomes for all students, with a particular focus on improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

The AIR Difference

Our highly qualified team provides flexible, customized, and ongoing technical assistance to SEAs and LEAs around the country. Our approach is always grounded in evidence and our processes aim to contribute to a better world.

To learn more, contact Jennifer Pierce at jpierce@air.org.

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Integrate Your Multi-Tiered System of Support



Is your school, district, region, or state looking to advance Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Support (I-MTSS) implementation to better meet the needs of all students? AIR has a solution for you.

Our Services

The cornerstone of our services is to use the Integrated MTSS Fidelity Rubric (IMFR) to identify current I-MTSS implementation strengths and areas for improvement. We use the IMFR because it is the only valid and reliable measure of I-MTSS. The result? You can be confident that the data are accurate.

Our highly skilled staff will then partner with you to:

- ✓ Review and explain IMFR results.
- ✓ Develop a feasible, cost-effective, and customized technical assistance plan that is aligned with school and student improvement goals.
- ✓ Deliver high-quality technical assistance to improve I-MTSS implementation and supports for all students.

Outcomes that Matter

By working with AIR, you can expect to:

- ✓ Understand what I-MTSS is, why it is important, and how it can help students
- √ Identify school I-MTSS implementation strengths and improvement areas.
- ✓ Set achievable goals for I-MTSS.
- ✓ Bring together staff to build readiness for I-MTSS and reduce implementation inefficiencies that contribute to staff burnout and misused resources.
- ✓ Build staff capacity for integrating academic and socialemotional behavioral supports.

The AIR Difference

Our approach is always grounded in evidence and aims to contribute to a better world. Our innovative services help our clients improve how they implement I-MTSS so that students' comprehensive needs are better met.

What is I-MTSS?

I-MTSS is what MTSS was originally intended to be: The strategic combination of the academic "side" and the social-emotional behavioral "side" of tiered systems.

Benefits of Integrating:

- ✓ Better meet the comprehensive needs of all students.
- ✓ Improve efficiency of implementation.
- ✓ Improve staff knowledge and skill for how, why, and when to integrate academic and socialemotional behavioral supports.



To learn more, contact IMFR@air.org.

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Culminating Reflections: 3, 2, 1, 1

- What are your 3 key takeaways?
- What 2 questions do you have?
- What is 1 action you will take following this meeting?
- What is 1 word that captures your reaction to today's session?



Thank You!

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