

Northwest Regional Education Cooperative #2

Winter Special Education Leadership Academy 2022

sessions held daily from 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Presenter: Robert Abney

JAN 24

Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Also referred to as "teacher teams," PLC's are a fundamental component to a strong first layer of a school's MLSS. The breadth and depth of ideas increases when teachers collaborate to support struggling students (MLSS Manual, 2021). It is vital that PLC's engage other school staff (paraprofessionals, counselors, ancillary staff, administrators) to lend their expertise and insights as to a student's obstacles to learning. The purpose of this session is to provide recommendations for establishing such teams and maintaining them over the course of time.

Differentiated Instruction and Special Education/ Specially Designed Instruction

Differentiation is a key aspect of a successful Layer 1 program (MLSS Manual, 2021). Differentiation is a means of targeting instruction to better meet a variety of student needs and includes adjustments to instruction by content, process, or product. The definition of "special education" is marked by the term "specially designed instruction" that is intended to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. The two-pronged test for eligibility for special education requires that the child's team conclude that the child requires specially designed instruction in order to access the general curriculum. The purpose of this session is to discuss how the layered supports and interventions offered through MLSS may impact or inform eligibility teams' decisions around eligibility for special education services.

Presenters: Rochelle Cherrin
& Valerie Brea

JAN 25

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and MLSS Layer 1

Positive teacher and staff relationships with students are predictors of student success and teacher success (MLSS Manual, 2021). Further, the NMPED's MLSS Manual (2022) notes that the focus of MLSS Layer 1 includes (among other critical elements) school-wide implementation of positive behavioral interventions and supports. Equal weight is given to the importance of building a solid infrastructure for academic instruction as well as supports to address student behavioral/social emotional needs. The intent of this session is to provide participants with information on PBIS to support the construction and maintenance of a strong PBIS system that includes the explicit teaching and reinforcing of student expectations.

Presenter: David D'Antonio

JAN 26

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

The Universal Design for Learning Framework is the product of decades of work by experts with the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST). The goal of UDL Framework is to make learning a more inclusive experience for all children and to remove barriers to learning. This presentation will offer participants insight into the brain science that serves as the foundation of this framework as well as the three principles for educators in the UDL Framework: student engagement; representation; and action and expression.

Presenters: Janea Mennicucci,
Cammie LePlatt, Candise Forgue
& Megan Shanley

JAN 27

*Click on session date to register