

Abstract
State Personnel Development Grant (CFDA 84.323A)
Utah Multi-Tiered System of Supports

The proposed project addresses Absolute Priorities 1 – *Effective and Efficient Delivery of Professional Development* and 2 – *State Personnel Development Grants*, and Competitive Priority 1 – *Targeting Teachers’ Professional Development Needs Based on Student Growth*.

The purpose of this project is to develop an infrastructure for implementing the Utah Multi-Tiered System of Supports (UMTSS) at the state and Local Education Agency (LEA) level by creating models of successful implementation that can be scaled up across the state. The UMTSS will help positively impact student outcomes by creating capacity for an integrated academic and behavior support system that can be implemented with fidelity, is sustained over time, and utilizes data-based decision making at all levels of implementation. The overall outcome of this project will be to help ensure that all students, especially students with disabilities, benefit from effective instruction and intervention.

To achieve this purpose the project has six goals: (a) increase State Leadership capacity for UMTSS implementation, (b) increase LEA Leadership capacity for UMTSS implementation, (c) increase LEA capacity for UMTSS sustainability, (d) increase school level capacity for UMTSS implementation through improved team data-based problem solving and best practice, (e) improve teacher performance in the classroom, and (f) increase family support for UMTSS implementation and sustainability.

Current student performance data suggest there is a large gap in academic proficiency scores between the state average of all students and students with disabilities. The data also indicate that students with disabilities are receiving an increased amount of instruction in the general education classroom. This project is designed to help address the instructional needs of students with disabilities (mild/moderate), grades K-12, in general education classrooms in schools (rural, suburban, and urban) throughout the state of Utah.

The Utah Personnel Development Center (UPDC) will provide personnel development support to participating LEAs, which includes a hybrid of face-to-face and virtual trainings, to help facilitate implementation and sustainability of UMTSS. This combination of face-to-face and virtual interventions provides the needed flexibility to ensure that rural school sites have equality of access to “universal, targeted, and intensive” personnel development interventions. The UPDC plans to continue to address and expand the equality of access by developing and using online modules and distance learning technologies.

Finally, the project has established linkages and partnerships with other appropriate agencies. The UPDC will work collaboratively with these partners to meet the goals and objectives of the project, and to ensure that a diversity of perspectives from all SPDG partners and constituents will be brought to bear on project operations. Key collaborators include the following: the Utah State Office of Education, Utah Parent Center (Parent Information Center Partner), Utah State University (IHE partner), LEA Consortium (special education directors representing all Utah LEAs), and the UMTSS advisory council (representatives from IHEs).