Part One: The (Engaging) Impetus

For using the WISE Tool

Improving Schools is a Complicated Pursuit

Lots of People Want to Help

But Have Different Ideas About How

So Lines Get Messy
It's Sort of Like the Old Days of Family Vacation

(When You Got Lost)

You Knew Where You Wanted to Go
But you weren’t quite sure how to get there
(although everybody had an idea)

These Days, We Have Help
Acquiring Satellites. . .

Look Familiar?

A Global Positioning System (GPS)
- Shows where you are relative to your destination
- Provides detailed routes for reaching it
- Adjusts to variations and even accommodates diversions along the way

But the destination remains constant.

Family Vacations Have Never Been More Relaxing
(For The Most Part)
The WISE Tool

Works in much the same way, only for School Improvement

It's a Keep-Moving Navigational Tool

That Guides Everybody in the Same Direction

EVERYBODY

Which Means:
- Roles are Clear
- Purpose is Shared
- Effort is Aligned
- Partnerships Prevail
- Change is Sustained

Like GPS, the WISE Tool:
- Shows where you are relative to your destination
- Provides detailed routes for reaching it
- Adjusts to variations and even accommodates diversions along the way

But the destination remains constant.

The WISE Tool Provides a Structure for Improving Performance

(With Plenty of “How” Flexibility)
The Structure is Built Using Success Indicators

The Research and Evidence of What Works in School Improvement

We've collected, analyzed, and organized the research so that your time can be spent applying it

(And the WISE Tool even guides you through application, too)

Remember, it's a Keep Moving Navigational Tool

Designed to Build and Sustain Momentum

Big, Lasting Improvement in Teaching and Learning is the Destination

But Results Don't Improve Unless Performance Improves

Part Two: The Backbone of the WISE Tool

Less Engaging than the Impetus, but Highly Important (after all, everyone needs a spine)

Success Indicators
Success Indicators
The Research & Evidence of What Works in School Improvement

- Evidence-based strategies for classrooms, schools, and districts
- Culled, analyzed, and organized in Handbook on Restructuring and Successful School Improvement
- *Handbook* named “outstanding publication of the year” by Division H of AERA at 2008 convention in New York City

Improving the Performance of:
The District.
The School.
The Classroom.
And Ultimately . . .
The Student.

States and Districts May Decide
Whether to use every indicator or selected indicators at each level or some levels

EITHER WAY
The WISE Tool Ensures that the Pathway will be Detailed, Direct, and Focused
The WISE Tool allows the District, the School, the Leader to know where they are in relation to a Success Indicator and provides guidance on where to make the next turn.

Part Three: Rules of Engagement
Using the WISE Tool in Teams and Online

The WISE Tool is Customized According to Your Focus
And, if you haven’t already figured it out . . . The WISE Tool is Web-Based
Getting Started
Logging on

District Dashboard

School Dashboard

But the Real Work Happens
in the Teams
Provide Support to District & School Teams

Engage with District-Level Success Indicators AND
May Provide Support to School-Level Teams

Engage with School-Level Success Indicators AND
May Receive Support from State Teams and/or District Teams

The WISE Tool is intended to be used in a Team Process

Expectations for the Team Process

High Quality Performance Requires
- Regular and well-attended team meetings
- Focused and difficult discussions
- Honest and reflective self examination
- Openness for and commitment to creativity
- Sincere and collaborative effort
- Use of the WISE Tool protocols & consistent documentation

The WISE Tool Makes it Easy and Efficient to Know What to Improve

But the Actual Improvement Depends on the Effort of the People Behind It

A Strong Team Process and the Steadfast Implementation of its Plans
Highlights of Team To-Do's

- Attendance at initial training on Success Indicators and use of the WISE Tool
- Participation in Web and telephone-based "courses" throughout the year
- Steady work with the Success Indicators

Highlights of Team To-Do's, cont.

- Attendance at regularly scheduled team meetings
- Assess progress toward Success Indicators,
- Plan for adjustments, and
- Receive feedback from instructors and coaches
- Regularly update activity and progress within the WISE Tool

Now We’re Ready to Roll Up Our Sleeves

And get to the real work of performance improvement

Assessing Success Indicators

- A candid self-assessment of where we are at… the starting point.
- If it is fully implemented, provide a substantial description of the full implementation.
- Priority and Opportunity Score.
- Describe Current Level of Implementation.
- Leave the planning for the next step!

Assessing Proximity to Success Indicators

Self-Assessment and the First Step toward Improvement
If the Team Identifies the Success Indicator as a Priority, Then We Plan!

- The WISE Tool turns the indicator into an action item...an objective.
- Prioritize indicators for planning.
- What it will look like when fully implemented.
- Tasks required to accomplish the objective.

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Wise Ways

Wise Ways is a built-in reference tool that provides a synthesis of the research that supports the indicator AND Provides real, how-to, high-leverage strategies for attaining it.

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Coaching Comments

Coaching Comments is an optional feature that makes it easy and automatic for teams to communicate with their Districts and Consultants, as applicable.

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Self Monitoring Progress

The WISE Tool makes it easy to update the tasks as we move towards full implementation. On-going Reporting of Progress.

Sustainability!
Where Are We Now?

Compliance Checklists

The following is a list of the minimum requirements to be completed prior to official submission of a school or district improvement plan in the WISE Tool.

It is our STRONG recommendation that this NOT be used as a list to guide your planning process, but rather a final check prior to submission.

Compliance Checklist for Schools

Complete the School Improvement Supplemental Plan, on the WISE Tool Dashboard.

Establishing a Team Structure with Specific Duties and Time for Instructional Planning
- Assess all indicators
- Plan for a minimum of 3 indicators

Focusing the Principal’s Role on Building Leadership Capacity, Achieving Learning Goals, and Improving Instruction
- Assess all indicators
- Plan for a minimum of 2 indicators
Compliance Checklist for Schools

Aligning Classroom Observations with Evaluation Criteria and Professional Development

- Assess all indicators
- Plan for a minimum of 3 indicators

Assessment (several indicator clusters in the WISE Tool)
- Assess and Plan for a minimum of 5 indicators

Instruction (several indicator clusters in the WISE Tool)
- Assess and Plan for a minimum of 7 indicators

Note: A maximum of 5 Indicators marked “Fully Implemented” with substantial descriptions of the Full Implementation can count towards the Total of 20 Indicators for the School Improvement Plan.

Compliance Checklist for Districts

Page 13 of the School Improvement Planning Workbook

SDE Approved District Consolidated Plan

District Context and Support
- Assess all indicators
- Plan for a minimum of 4 indicators

District and Change Process
- Assess all indicators
- Plan for a minimum of 3 indicators

District-School Expectations
- Assess all indicators
- Plan for a minimum of 3 indicators

Note: A maximum of 5 Indicators marked “Fully Implemented” with substantial descriptions of the Full Implementation can count towards the Total of 10 Indicators for the Improvement Plan.

Procedures for Submitting School Improvement Plans

- Submit all School Improvement Plans to the District for review upon completion.
- After District approval of the plan is granted, click the “Submit” button on the WISE Tool Dashboard for both the School WISE Plan, and the School Improvement Supplemental Plan.
- The District will Submit ONE set of Assurance Pages that will assure for all School and District Plans being submitted by April 1, 2010.
- The District will Indicate on a Cover Page included in the Assurance Pages if plans are being submitted in the CIP Tool, or the WISE Tool during this transition year.

Procedures for Submitting District Improvement Plans

- Upon completion of the District Improvement Plan, click the “Submit” button on the WISE Tool Dashboard for the District WISE Plan.
- The District will Submit ONE set of Assurance Pages that will assure for all School and District Plans being submitted by April 1, 2010.
- The District will Indicate on a Cover Page included in the Assurance Pages if plans are being submitted in the CIP Tool, or the WISE Tool during this transition year.
- Assurance Pages are located on the WISE Tool Dashboard.

Expectations for Plan Review & Review Rubrics

- Whereas AYP is ultimately the responsibility of the LEA, districts are responsible for the quality of school improvement plans submitted to the state for review, and are expected to have completed a thorough review of school plans.
- The State will review all district improvement plans and conduct a randomized check of School Improvement Plans verified as complete through District submitted Assurances.
- The rubrics the state will be using for their review can be found at: http://csi.boisestate.edu/Improvement/SIPlans/

WISE Tool Resources

Additional WISE Tool Resources can be found on our website: http://csi.boisestate.edu/Improvement/WISETool/

Available Resources Include:
- School & District Plan Review Rubrics
- WISE Tool District Indicators
- WISE Tool School Indicators
- WISE Tool Brochure
- WISE Tool Sample Login
- Crosswalk of WISE Tool School Indicators and Danielson’s Framework
- Crosswalk of WISE Tool School Indicators and the 9 Characteristics of High Performing Schools
The WISE Tool

A Keep-Moving Navigational Tool, Research Based and Field Tested, that Guides Everyone in the Same Direction to Improve Learning For ALL Students

Indistar

While the national tool is now called Indistar, we will continue to call it the WISE Tool in Idaho. Please note that emails and other updates sent directly from CII may use the name Indistar, instead of the WISE Tool. You may need to adjust your SPAM filter to accept Indistar related email.

Center on Innovation & Improvement

The Center on Innovation & Improvement helps regional centers in their work with states to provide districts, schools, and families with the opportunity, information, and skills to make wise decisions on behalf of students. The Center on Innovation & Improvement is a partnership of the Academic Development Institute (Lincoln, IL), Temple University Center for Research in Human Development and Education (Philadelphia, PA), and Little Planet Learning (Nashville, TN).

www.centerii.org

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