October 27, 2023

Good morning, Superintendents,

I hope you are keeping as well as can be today amid a horrible tragedy unfolding in our region. I am thinking of the community of Lewiston, Maine, and surrounding areas, as they grieve the horrific killings of fellow community members over the last 48 hours. I hope you are taking care of yourself and finding helpful ways to cope with the many traumatic events occurring in our world.

Thank you for all you do in service of providing a quality public education for the students in your district.  Since the start of the year, I have had the pleasure of visiting roughly 20 percent of all 22 SSoS districts to see first-hand how you are ensuring your district’s instructional priority reaches all classrooms. I have seen through some school-based ILTs the strength of District Instructional Leadership Team practices that provide clarity of expectations for adult actions that support the instructional priority. In classrooms, I have seen emerging practices that provide a first look at how educators are planning with the WIDA standards to ensure appropriate linguistic scaffolds to accelerate language development. I very much look forward to visiting the remaining districts in the coming months.

One practice I have found especially powerful in my own work is to take snapshots of student tasks, evidence of the student experience, and a simple way to ensure I am centering student learning in my discussions about instruction. Others on our team are beginning to adopt this practice as well. We encourage you to join us in making this a regular part of your practice (if it isn’t already) as you take steps to understand the classroom experience of students, as informed by your vertical alignment strategy.

Now that you are well underway with your school year we want to pause and ask for feedback on your team’s experience with SSoS Regional Assistance so far this year, relative to the implementation of your [district’s instructional priority](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/guidance.html?section=sustainable). As noted in the [SSoS-District Partnership Overview](https://www.doe.mass.edu/turnaround/level4/ssos-district-partnership-overview.docx), SSoS is committed to ensuring our collective efforts result in districts reaching their goals for improved student outcomes. Your perspective is a vital component of our efforts to monitor how well we are doing relative to that goal and helps us scale up SSoS practices that are making a difference for districts, while also making improvements where needed.

We ask that each of you [**complete this survey**](https://forms.office.com/g/C63EJT4usb) **by Friday, November 17**, with input from your team if desired. We will also be sending a post survey at the end of the school year and will use this feedback to monitor our progress and strengthen the assistance we provide relative to our Model. Thank you in advance for your honest feedback!

*Grateful for your partnership in service to our students!*

Warmly,

Charmie