

**FFY 2019 Kansas Phase III, Year 5 State Systemic Improvement Plan  
Indicator 17 Data and Overview**

**A. Summary of Phase III, Year 5**

The FFY 2019 Kansas Phase III, Year 5 submission is organized according to the report outline provided by the Office of Special Education Programs. The components of the report are:

- A. Summary of FFY 2019 Phase III, Year 5
- B. Progress in Implementing the SSIP
- C. Data on Implementation and Outcomes
- D. Data Quality Issues
- E. Progress Toward Achieving Intended Improvements
- F. Plans for Next Year

The following Kansas report includes data and analyses consistent with the Kansas State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Indicator 17 FFY 2019 Phase III, Year 5 requirements. The report includes the Theory of Action and evaluation plan that outline the Kansas cohort districts' path toward meeting the short-term and long-term objectives for implementation of the Kansas SSIP. The Kansas report also outlines progress in achieving the State-Identified Measurable Result (SIMR) for students with disabilities (Table 1). The FFY 2019 Phase III, Year 5 Kansas Report summarizes data-based justifications for proceeding with implementation activities. Data verify that Kansas has focused efforts in order to support systemic improvement in the area of reading skills for children kindergarten through fifth grade, specifically students with disabilities, as stated in the Kansas SIMR. Descriptions of how stakeholders have been involved in decision making are included.

Appendices:

- A. Kansas SSIP Theory of Action
- B. Kansas SSIP Logic Model
- C. Kansas SSIP Evaluation Plan
- D. Kansas SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategy Activity Timeline and Status
- E. Glossary of Terms

Table 1

*Kansas State-Identified Measurable Result (SIMR)*

<b>FFY</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Target >=		29.95%	30.00%	27.52%	28.50%	29.50%	29.50%
Data	29.95%*	24.41%	26.37%	27.52%**	31.11%	30.25%	---

\*Baseline

\*\* Baseline Re-Established

The KSDE does not have SIMR data to report in the FFY19 SPP/APR due to the COVID-19 interruption. The Governor of the State of Kansas closed all school buildings from March 16 through June 30, 2020 per Executive Order # 20-07 resulting in a statewide shift to remote instruction. Indicator 17 SIMR data was specifically impacted by the COVID-19 interruption and the Governors' Executive Order in that 100% of the school buildings in which SIMR data are

collected were closed prior to and beyond duration of the Spring test administration window when SIMR data are collected.

The steps taken to mitigate the impact of school building closure on the SIMR data collection included convening TASN coordinators, Kansas MTSS and Alignment director, state trainers, SSIP evaluators and the KSDE Assistant Director. Collectively, this team assessed the impact and tried to identify viable options. After careful consideration, no reasonable mitigation measures were able to be identified, including delayed and/or partial data collection. This was primarily due to the extended length of school building closures, the widescale shift to remote learning, safety concerns, and undue burden on students, teachers, and family members. Finally, members of the team tried to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 interruption on data collection by seeking guidance from publishers about reliability and validity in non-standard test administration settings, such as virtual. At the time of the Spring 2020 test window, little or no information was available.

### **Theory of Action, Logic Model, SIMR, Coherent Improvement Strategies, and Infrastructure Improvement Strategies**

As described in the Kansas SSIP Theory of Action (Appendix A), Kansas SSIP Logic Model (Appendix B), and Kansas SSIP Evaluation Plan (Appendix C), the Kansas SSIP addressed three coherent improvement strategies to achieve the SIMR during the FFY 2019 reporting period:

- Coherent Improvement Strategy 1.0 focused on infrastructure development through strategically realigning, reallocating, and leveraging current State Education Agency (SEA) policies, organization, and infrastructure for increased capacity of districts to implement evidence-based practices.
- Coherent Improvement Strategy 2.0 focused on supporting the implementation of evidence-based practices through designing, implementing, and evaluating an integrated school improvement-planning framework built upon the existing Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (Kansas MTSS) and Alignment. These changes increased district capacity to provide effective reading instruction for students with disabilities.
- Coherent Improvement Strategy 3.0 evaluated the degree to which the state infrastructure supported district implementation of evidence-based practices to improve reading results for students with disabilities kindergarten through fifth grade.

### **Evidence-Based Practices and Evaluation Overview**

During FFY 2019, the timelines for Coherent Improvement Strategy 1.0, Coherent Improvement Strategy 2.0, and Coherent Improvement Strategy 3.0 were followed with minor adjustments necessary due to the COVID-19 interruption. Evaluation measures were refined and implemented as part of the Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) utilization-focused evaluation process. The principle activities and evaluation plan were fully implemented, and the results of the short-term, medium-term, and long-term outcomes for each of the three coherent improvement strategies were reported.

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) made gains in infrastructure development and alignment that increased the capacity of districts to implement evidence-based practices. The specific activities and outcomes reported include integration within the Kansas ESEA Consolidated Plan, implementation of the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) model, unified infrastructure, and aligned utilization-focused evaluation. The KSDE used principles of *Leading by Convening* (Cashman et al., 2014) to engage stakeholders through each phase of the process and continues to do so on an ongoing basis.

The implementation of evidence-based practices within districts applying Kansas MTSS and Alignment principles was apparent. These practices included the provision of evidence-based core and intervention curricula, universal screening, progress monitoring, data-based decision making, and promoting family engagement. During FFY 2019, leadership teams from the SIMR cohort districts participated in ongoing implementation training to sustain the evidence-based practices of Kansas MTSS and Alignment. The districtwide trainings included participants from early childhood settings, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools. Data are reported on the short-term, medium-term, and long-term outcomes from these districts. While the SIMR focused specifically on the reading achievement of students with disabilities in kindergarten through fifth grade, Kansas MTSS and Alignment holistically supports sustainable, districtwide implementation of an integrated reading, math, behavioral, and social-emotional model from early childhood through graduation. Within the framework, each student, specifically students with disabilities, received the instruction and interventions necessary to improve reading, math, behavioral, and social-emotional outcomes.

### **Changes to Implementation and Improvement Strategies**

The implementation timeline and evaluation of the coherent improvement strategies are on target. There is not a need to modify the SSIP implementation plan at this time since the data feedback loops, including stakeholder engagement, are in place and operating as planned. While Curriculum-Based Measure General Outcome Measure (CBM GOM) data were not available for spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 interruption, implementation supports and instruction were maintained through *Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide for Learning and School Safety Operations* (Kansas State Department of Education, 2020) and virtual professional development.

For students to reach grade-level benchmark on a Curriculum-Based Measure General Outcome Measure (CBM GOM), both fluency consistent with the grade-level criteria and 95% accuracy must be achieved. When students struggle learning to read, initial intervention focuses on improvement in accuracy and then shifts to improvement in fluency, which allows the students to achieve benchmark. In FFY 2016, FFY 2017, and FFY 2018, students with disabilities in grades two through five substantially improved in achievement of the 95% accuracy criterion (Table 2). Developing interventions focused on students' needs resulted in individual student growth. With both improvements in Kansas SIMR data and grade-level reading accuracy data, stakeholders determined the intervention to be effective.

Table 2

*Percentage of Students With Disabilities Grades Two Through Five Achieving 95% Accuracy in Reading*

Reporting Year	Fall	Spring	Improvement
FFY 2016	42.2%	65.2%	23.0%
FFY 2017	38.7%	71.8%	34.1%
FFY 2018	39.1%	63.5%	24.4%

## **B. Progress in Implementing the SSIP**

### **SSIP Implementation Progress**

Progress for implementing the Kansas SSIP is on track and presented in Appendix D as the Kansas SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategy Activity Timeline and Status. All activities in the three coherent improvement strategies have been implemented as planned.

Coherent Improvement Strategy 1.0 focused on improving the infrastructure. Notable accomplishments and outputs included full implementation of the expanded TASN; realignment of the TASN priorities, operating principles, and scopes of work, and allocation of resources based on state needs and input from stakeholders. The Kansas MTSS and Alignment constructs have been integrated within the ESEA Consolidated Plan, the KESA model, the Kansas State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG), and *Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide for Learning and School Safety Operations* (Kansas State Department of Education, 2020). Activities that are in place and will continue for sustainability include monitoring the delivery of professional development and technical assistance, facilitating communication and collaboration across all levels of stakeholders, and aligning resources across the KSDE and TASN providers.

Coherent Improvement Strategy 2.0 concentrated on the implementation of evidence-based practices. The expanded TASN system fully implemented the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project in FFY 2015. Implementation was continuously sustained and scaled up through FFY 2019. Additional project members were hired and trained each year, and Kansas MTSS and Alignment materials were assessed and refined to ensure alignment with KESA, the state system for accrediting schools. Ongoing work focuses on providing training and support to districts implementing Kansas MTSS and Alignment with fidelity. During FFY 2016, the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project provided intensive coaching in implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment structures to 18 Kansas school districts encompassing 87 buildings and 32,255 students, including 5,460 students with disabilities. During FFY 2017, this expanded to 31 Kansas school districts encompassing 266 buildings and 128,604 students, including 18,501 students with disabilities. In FFY 2018, this expanded to 43 Kansas school districts encompassing 307 buildings and 140,075 students, including 20,954 students with disabilities. In FFY 2019, this intensive training and coaching was provided to 51 Kansas school districts encompassing 271 buildings and 105,851 students, including 16,298 students with disabilities.

Coherent Improvement Strategy 3.0 focused on evaluation of the Kansas SSIP. All of the identified activities have been implemented and sustained across multiple years. Evaluation data demonstrate progress, including the development and sustainability of feedback loops and the evaluation of implementation, progress, and fidelity.

### **SSIP Implementation Progress in Stakeholder Involvement**

The KSDE used principles of *Leading by Convening* (Cashman et al., 2014) to engage stakeholders through each phase of the process and continues to do so on an ongoing basis. Stakeholders from the local and state levels were intentionally informed of the SSIP implementation and provided a voice in decision making. Stakeholders are represented by persons with disabilities, parents of students with disabilities, teachers, principals, superintendents, higher education faculty, state school staff members, correctional facility staff members, vocational rehabilitation representatives, and other state agencies. Organizations represented by stakeholders include the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council, the Kansas Parent Training and Information Center (PTI), the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC), the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project, the Kansas Learning Network, and the KESA Advisory Council. Additionally, stakeholders include multiple internal stakeholders from the KSDE Office of the Commissioner, Division of Learning Services, and Special Education and Title Services teams.

Involvement in state-level workgroups, conference participation, and advisory council membership informed stakeholders of ongoing SSIP implementation. Stakeholders informed decisions by providing input, providing feedback, and participating in decision-making groups. Stakeholders have been actively involved in SSIP implementation decision making by co-presenting at conferences and workshops, advising and assisting with revision of training content and coaching processes, and providing direct feedback data for use in the SSIP evaluation. Numerous stakeholders, including district personnel and the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council, informed and approved the FFY 2016 revised Kansas SIMR statement, baseline, and targets. The comprehensive improvement strategy outcomes in Section C of this report describe specific examples of stakeholder engagement activities. Detailed stakeholder engagement results, at both the state and local levels, are located in outcome sections 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2b, 2c, and 2g.

## **C. Data on Implementation and Outcomes**

### **Monitoring and Measuring of Outputs**

The KSDE staff monitored and measured the Kansas SSIP outputs to assess the effectiveness of the implementation plan. Through the previous leadership of Colleen Riley and current leadership of Bert Moore, Directors of the KSDE Special Education and Title Services team, the Kansas SSIP operates within an aligned framework at both the SEA and LEA levels.

The KSDE SPP/APR committee, including the SSIP workgroup, meets monthly and is responsible for the coordination, monitoring, and evaluation of the SSIP improvement activities and achievement of the SIMR. Members of this workgroup draft reports in compliance with OSEP Indicator 17 reporting requirements. Multiple groups provide data for the reports:

- The larger KSDE SPP/APR committee provides monthly progress and feedback data.
- The Special Education Advisory Council provides quarterly feedback.

- Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers working with the SIMR cohort districts serve as ad hoc members to the SSIP workgroup.
- TASN Coordination and Evaluation project members serve on the SPP/APR committee and SSIP workgroup.

Additionally, various members of the KSDE SSIP workgroup periodically participate in and present at a variety of professional learning opportunities. Forums include the online SPDG/SSIP community of practice, the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI) Systems Alignment Collaborative, and other OSEP-sponsored meetings and conferences.

### **Implementation and Outcomes of Coherent Improvement Strategy 1.0: Infrastructure Development**

The Kansas SSIP Theory of Action (Appendix A) identifies the results of Phase I data analysis, including the coherent improvement strategies and state-identified measurable result. These strategies are transferred to the Kansas SSIP Logic Model (Appendix B), where outcomes are delineated and labeled with the respective improvement strategy. Each outcome from the Logic Model is transferred to the Kansas SSIP Evaluation Plan (Appendix C) and is aligned using the outcome number (e.g., 1a, 2c). In the Evaluation Plan, associated indicators and measures for each outcome are provided. Following the table, each measure is described with the timeline for data collection. As described next, the evaluation plan addresses data management and analyses to show progress toward achieving the intended outcomes.

#### **Short-Term Outcomes: Knowledge, Skills, and Collaboration**

*Outcome 1a. KSDE Staff and TASN Providers Demonstrate Knowledge and Skills Necessary to Implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment.* The knowledge and skills necessary to develop the infrastructure that facilitates the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment were demonstrated. Implementation included the alignment of state policies and priorities necessary to support comprehensive school improvement as well as collaboratively making data-based decisions (Outcomes 1b, 1c, and 1d). This increased the capacity of Kansas districts to provide holistic, sustainable, districtwide implementation of an integrated reading, math, behavioral, and social-emotional model from early childhood through graduation.

Kansas MTSS and Alignment is designed to increase district capacity to implement evidence-based practices that improve reading results for students with disabilities kindergarten through fifth grade. The practices within Kansas MTSS and Alignment include provision of evidence-based core and intervention curricula, universal screening, progress monitoring, data-based decision making, and family engagement. The following events were important for increasing knowledge, developing shared understanding, and collaborating professionally in support of Kansas MTSS and Alignment implementation and the Kansas SSIP.

*The Kansas MTSS and Alignment Symposium.* The annual Kansas MTSS and Alignment Symposium ensures that KSDE staff, TASN providers, and stakeholders learn together and maintain a shared vision for the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment and evidence-

based practices. In FFY 2019, 1,222 individuals registered for the Symposium, representing a broad group of stakeholders. Specifically, 21 KSDE staff members; 34 TASN providers (including 22 members of the Kansas MTSS and Alignment staff and the KPIRC Executive Director); 1,014 district personnel (including 79 educators from the SIMR cohort districts); 60 personnel from other educational agencies (e.g., cooperatives, service centers, interlocals, private schools); 10 university employees; three educational business leaders; and 79 education professionals from other states learned together at this skill-development institute.

The Symposium hosted 91 sessions to assist educators in delivering evidence-based instructional practices within a tiered framework. Eleven of the sessions were led by Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers and six were led by districts working with the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project. Other presenters included national experts in the areas of reading, math, behavior/social-emotional learning, collective teacher efficacy, leadership, and mental health. Additionally, the Symposium included two full-day preconference trainings, including The Instructional Playbook, which was presented by Jim Knight and attended by 197 participants, and Kansas MTSS and Alignment Preschool Style, which was presented by the Kansas MTSS and Alignment early childhood team and attended by 126 participants.

Evaluation data (N=579) indicated that participants found the session topics to be relevant and useful, giving an average rating of 4.57 on a scale from 1 (*Poor*) to 5 (*Excellent*). Additionally, participants rated aspects of the conference on a scale from 1 (*Strongly Disagree*) to 5 (*Strongly Agree*). Evaluation data are shown in Table 3.

Table 3

*Kansas MTSS and Alignment Symposium Evaluation Data*

Evaluation Items	Average Ratings (Scale 1–5)
I understand how the content/practice is intended to improve outcomes for children and youth.	4.02
I will use the content or implement the practice(s) from this conference.	3.99
Overall, the training was of high quality.	4.02

*The KSDE Summer Leadership Conference.* In addition to the shared learning at the Kansas MTSS and Alignment Symposium, KSDE and TASN hosted the KSDE Summer Leadership Conference. The Kansas PTI and each TASN project, including Kansas MTSS and Alignment and KPIRC, hosted individual booths in the TASN Marketplace. The purpose of the Marketplace was to provide a space to exchange information with district leadership regarding the services and resources offered by each TASN project. In FFY 2019, 443 participants attended the conference, including numerous stakeholder groups. A breakdown of the attendees included 37 KSDE staff members, 56 TASN providers (including 20 Kansas MTSS and Alignment staff members), 227 district personnel (including seven personnel from the SIMR cohort districts), 84 personnel from other educational agencies, 29 college/university staff members, five educational business leaders, three members of KSDE’s Technical Assistance Team, and two representatives

of the Kansas PTI. Thirty-eight of Kansas' 39 (97%) special education cooperatives/interlocals were represented at the FFY 2019 conference, and special education representatives were present for 31 of the 33 districts (94%) that do not use a cooperative or interlocal for special education services.

The KSDE Summer Leadership Conference included 36 sessions that provided information about state priorities and evidence-based instructional practices. KSDE staff and TASN providers jointly presented six sessions, KSDE staff led 20 sessions, TASN providers led six sessions, and members of other entities provided four sessions. Evaluation data (N=170) indicated that participants found the session topics to be relevant and useful, giving an average rating of 4.02 on a scale from 1 (*Poor*) to 5 (*Excellent*). Additionally, participants rated aspects of the conference on a scale from 1 (*Strongly Disagree*) to 5 (*Strongly Agree*). Evaluation data are shown in Table 4.

Table 4

*KSDE Summer Leadership Conference Evaluation Data*

Evaluation Items	Average Ratings (scale 1–5)
I understand how the content/practice is intended to improve outcomes for children and youth.	4.35
I left the conference with tools or functional methods to transfer my learning to practice.	3.93
Overall, the training was of high quality.	4.09

*TASN Quarterly Meetings.* One two-hour virtual and three full-day, face-to-face TASN Quarterly Meetings were held during FFY 2019. Two key goals of these meetings were (1) to build coherence among KSDE staff and TASN providers and (2) to facilitate collaboration that leads to the effective and efficient use of human capital. Attendance at each full-day meeting averaged 21 KSDE staff, 16 Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers, 37 other TASN providers, and seven members of KSDE's Technical Assistance Team. Additionally, meetings were attended by leadership from the Kansas PTI and the KPIRC. Professional learning during FFY 2019 built upon previous efforts. During FFY 2015, the Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers presented an overview of Kansas MTSS and Alignment and explained its alignment to the work of other TASN projects and to various state and federal laws and initiatives. Through a series of performance-based activities embedded within the presentation, participants were prompted to reflect on and discuss the unique features of Kansas MTSS and Alignment that met or exceeded the requirements of state and federal laws. In FFY 2016, topics discussed in detail at the TASN Quarterly Meetings included:

- How the work of the TASN providers supports the Kansas State Board of Education vision and each KESA indicator;
- How TASN projects could collaborate to support districts' KESA self-assessment and implementation of evidence-based practices that address the KESA indicators;
- Opportunities to serve on KESA Outside Visitation Teams;

- Collaboratively supporting the needs of schools eligible for ESEA Comprehensive Support and Improvement;
- TASN website features that facilitate collaboration (e.g., ability to view the technical assistance provided to each district);
- Stakeholder feedback instruments that can be used across projects (e.g., MTSS Family Engagement Survey); and
- Identification of overlap and potential duplication of provider efforts.

In FFY 2017, topics discussed in detail at the TASN Quarterly Meetings included:

- Updates and information from KSDE staff and outside experts on the five Kansas State Board of Education outcomes (i.e., Kindergarten Readiness, Individual Plans of Study, Social-Emotional Growth, High School Graduation, and Postsecondary Success);
- An overview of each TASN project presented by project staff;
- The 2017–2022 Kansas SPDG, focusing on integrating trauma-informed school mental health into MTSS structures;
- Aligning efforts around coaching models used by TASN projects;
- Revisiting of the TASN Standard Operating Principles; and
- Discussions around laws concerning special education.

In FFY 2018, topics discussed in detail at the TASN Quarterly Meetings included:

- Updates and information from KSDE on the five Kansas State Board of Education outcomes, the School Redesign project, and other new and ongoing initiatives;
- An overview of Inspired Leadership practices;
- Equity considerations in education, including equity considerations within coaching conversations;
- A discussion highlighting Kansas’ revised Social, Emotional, and Character Development Standards;
- Assistive and other technology used by the Kansas Infinitec project;
- Protocols for determining appropriate use of alternative assessments, including using the least dangerous assumption principle;
- The Kansas Family Engagement Framework; and
- Examining bias and rethinking special education.

In FFY 2019, topics discussed in detail at the TASN Quarterly Meetings included:

- Supporting districts in navigating change and implementing continuous learning plans;
- Visible learning practices, including collective teacher efficacy, integrated within Kansas MTSS and Alignment;
- Enhancing professional learning by developing higher-order learning targets and accurately documenting source materials;
- Building students’ intrapersonal and interpersonal competencies, implementing trauma-informed school mental health practices, and promoting staff self-care practices; and
- Garnering stakeholder feedback on the clarity, accuracy, and interpretation of TASN evaluation briefs following the ORID (objective, reflective, interpretive, and decisional) method.

Each meeting was intentionally designed to facilitate collaboration and increase shared understanding of each TASN project, KSDE priorities, and alignment with the Kansas MTSS and Alignment framework. Beginning in FFY 2017, additional meetings for TASN Project Directors were established in order to further understanding and collaboration among projects.

The TASN Quarterly Meeting evaluation data revealed that participants found the meetings to be relevant, useful, and of high quality. Following each full-day meeting, participants were asked to rate items on a survey using a scale from 1 (*Strongly Disagree*) to 5 (*Strongly Agree*). Meeting participants provided an average rating of 4.55 for the item *I understand how the content/practice is intended to improve outcomes for children and youth*; 4.44 for the item *I will use the content or implement the practice(s) from this training*; and 4.52 for the item *Overall, the training was of high quality*.

Additionally, a member of the TASN Evaluation project rated each full-day Quarterly Meeting using the Observation Checklist for High-Quality Professional Development (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, Brussow, & Langham, 2015). Evaluation project ratings noted that, on average, the events met 19 out of the 22 indicators of high-quality professional development. These ratings included 100% of the indicators in the Introduction domain, 100% of the indicators in the Demonstration domain, and 92% in the Engagement domain.

***Outcome 1b. KSDE Staff and TASN Providers Collaborate to Implement the Kansas MTSS and Alignment Framework.*** A document review was conducted to evaluate the collaborative efforts and determine increased alignment of the KSDE infrastructures that facilitated the implementation of the Kansas MTSS and Alignment framework. A review and analysis consisting of 187 documents indicated high levels of message alignment across the KSDE divisions, among TASN providers, and across stakeholder groups. The collective message was instrumental in implementing an aligned system that supports districts in the implementation of a tiered framework of supports and interventions that improves reading, math, behavioral, and social-emotional achievement of students, specifically students with disabilities, from early childhood through graduation.

*The Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) Model.* During FFY 2015, the KSDE launched KESA, a new state system of accreditation. This accreditation model features a district-level self-assessment in the areas of Relationships, Relevance, Responsive Culture, and Rigor. The self-assessment is followed by improvement plan development, implementation, and evaluation. During FFY 2016, district administrators were trained in this model and began the accreditation process. FFY 2017 was the first year Kansas schools could choose to complete accreditation within a five-year cycle based on readiness. Of the two public school districts that opted to be accredited in the first year, one was also a SIMR cohort district. While 67% of Kansas school districts opted to wait until the final year of the accreditation cycle (2022), 100% of the SIMR cohort districts chose to be accredited earlier than required, demonstrating increased readiness in the areas of Relationships, Relevance, Responsive Culture, and Rigor.

Kansas public school districts completed a needs assessment in FFY 2017 and provided self-assigned ratings for each of the four KESA components. Results showed that SIMR cohort districts rated their practices at one of the two highest levels (i.e., transitioning or modeling) at a much higher frequency than other Kansas school districts (Table 5).

Table 5

*Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) District Self-Ratings*

KESA Component	Percentage of SIMR cohort districts <i>Transitioning or Modeling</i>	Percentage of all districts <i>Transitioning or Modeling</i>
Relationships	60%	26%
Relevance	60%	37%
Responsive Culture	60%	36%
Rigor	60%	31%

KESA requires districts to have a tiered framework of supports and interventions. The KSDE Accreditation Advisory Council was instrumental in the development of the KESA framework and implementation timeline. As members of the advisory council, Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers collaborated with the KSDE on the key components of a tiered framework within KESA. Additionally, the KPIRC Director collaborated with Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers and KSDE staff to determine the key components of family engagement that are necessary for full implementation of a tiered framework within the accreditation process. During FFY 2019, districts continued to work directly with KSDE staff and TASN providers to implement improvement plans in the areas of Relationships, Relevance, Responsive Culture, and Rigor. Each district has an Outside Visitation Team to guide and evaluate accreditation efforts.

During FFY 2015, the KSDE Accreditation Advisory Council met six times to inform and finalize the KESA process. During FFY 2016, the Accreditation Advisory Council met five times to provide input into the accreditation process, Outside Visitation Team procedures, implementation of family engagement practices aligned with KESA indicators, teacher licensure, and the training process and materials for districts. During FFY 2017, the Accreditation Advisory Council met five times to implement and inform the KESA process, including K–12 accreditation; teacher licensure; and consistency in training, resources, structures, and evaluation. During FFY 2018, the Accreditation Advisory Council met five times, determining additional training and technical assistance needed for Outside Visitation Team members, providing feedback into the Accreditation Review Council handbook, and discussing alignment between KESA rubrics and the Kansas State Board of Education vision. Documents from five FFY 2019 KSDE Accreditation Advisory Council meetings were reviewed; accomplishments included updating the accreditation criteria, including providing additional explanation of family engagement and deepening the criteria for diversity and equity. Adjustments were made to the timeline for outside visits into school districts due to COVID-19 related travel and social distancing restrictions. The 56 stakeholders on the council included representatives from the KSDE divisions, school districts, parents, private and special purpose schools, postsecondary education, business and industry, KPIRC, and members of the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project.

*Elementary and Secondary Education Act Consolidated State Plan and School Improvement Supports.* Kansas MTSS and Alignment, as well as the Kansas State Systemic Improvement Plan, are integral to the ESEA Consolidated Plan. As identified in the Kansas ESEA Consolidated Plan:

The KSDE provides support to districts through Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) and Alignment training, a coherent continuum of evidence based, system-wide practices to support a rapid response to academic and behavioral needs, with frequent data-based monitoring for instructional decision making. Through Kansas MTSS and Alignment, the Kansas IDEA State Performance Plan, State Systemic Improvement Plan, Indicator 17 coherent improvement strategy results in a realigned, reallocated, collaborative professional learning infrastructure, which increases the capacity of districts to implement evidence-based instruction and interventions for each student. The IDEA SSIP short-term, medium-term, and long-term outcomes, informed by stakeholder involvement, directly align with the Kansas ESEA state plan. District adoption of Kansas MTSS and Alignment includes a proactive approach to improving academic performance, positive behavioral supports and interventions that promote student health and safety, improved social and emotional competency, and decreased removals from the classroom (2018, p. 61).

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, 2015) school improvement supports provided the rationale for the Kansas Learning Network to become a TASN project. During FFY 2015, instructional coaches were hired and underwent an extensive training process to expand skills in coaching schools eligible for school improvement, which closely aligns with the KESA accreditation model. In FFY 2016, FFY 2017, FFY 2018, and FFY 2019, Kansas Learning Network instructional coaches provided continual, intensive coaching and support to eligible districts. This work included a comprehensive needs assessment, root-cause analysis, implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment constructs, and fostering collective leadership skills within district- and building-level leadership teams. Kansas Learning Network instructional coaches and Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers collaborated extensively to coach districts eligible for Comprehensive Support and Improvement.

During FFY 2016, the ESEA Advisory Council met four times, providing guidance on the ESEA Consolidated Plan and alignment with the Kansas State Board of Education vision and outcomes, KESA, the Kansas Learning Network support process, the comprehensive support and improvement timeline and procedures, and early learning. During FFY 2017, the ESEA Advisory Council met five times, providing guidance on implementation of the ESEA Consolidated Plan, KESA, TASN, and the Kansas Learning Network support process. During FFY 2018, the ESEA Advisory Council met twice and continued discussions via virtual collaboration between meetings. The Council members provided input into the process for identification and technical assistance plan for targeted support and improvement, comprehensive support and improvement, and additional targeted support; reviewed paraprofessional requirements; and expanded their knowledge of the KSDE TASN, including providers working extensively with schools eligible for support (e.g., the Kansas Learning Network and the KPIRC). The 40 stakeholders on the council included representatives of the KSDE divisions, school districts, the KPIRC, the Kansas PTI, the Kansas Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and postsecondary education. During FFY 2019, over 500 Kansas educators, numerous state agencies, professional organizations and council members collaborated in the development of *Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations* (Kansas State Department of Education, 2020).

*Kansas MTSS and Alignment Staff.* The Kansas MTSS and Alignment project collaborated extensively to expand practices in family engagement, evidenced-based social and emotional interventions and schoolwide practices, trauma-informed practices, and school mental health interventions. The Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers met as a group monthly, participated in all TASN Quarterly Meetings, served on KSDE advisory committees, and received guidance from the State Board of Education and Special Education Advisory Council. The stakeholder collaboration resulted in the development and implementation of the Family Engagement Survey (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, & Groff, 2015) and the Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson, Monroe, and Noonan, 2017), which schools implementing Kansas MTSS and Alignment, including the SSIP SIMR cohort districts, utilized. Coherent Improvement Strategy 2.0, discussed in Outcome 2g, reports the results of this collaboration. The Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers also collaborated extensively with the Kansas SPDG to integrate school mental health practices within the Kansas MTSS and Alignment framework.

### **Medium-Term Outcomes: Installation of Evidence-Based Instructional Practices**

***Outcome 1c. KSDE and TASN Leadership Create the Conditions That Facilitate Implementation.*** The TASN was intentionally designed to provide a statewide structure that supports districts in the implementation of evidence-based practices, including Kansas MTSS and Alignment. A Request for Application process that outlined standard operating principles, a streamlined coordination process, and an evaluation plan enhanced the TASN in FFY 2014. These TASN structures were enacted in FFY 2015 and sustained in FFY 2016, FFY 2017, FFY 2018, and FFY 2019, resulting in a coherent system of technical assistance designed to enhance the capacity of schools to implement evidence-based practices that result in improved achievement and outcomes for Kansas students. The Request for Application for the next five-year TASN cycle was released in FFY 2018 to allow time for a detailed review and contract negotiation process in FFY 2019 and seamless transitioning to TASN 3.0 in FFY 2020.

The TASN structures were analyzed, direct feedback was collected from stakeholders, and the overall TASN system was evaluated to determine if the conditions created by KSDE and TASN leadership to facilitate the implementation of evidence-based practices were effective. The TASN structures that facilitate implementation include: (a) overarching TASN operating principles for all projects; (b) the KSDE TASN website, which provides a common location for all TASN resources, training registrations, materials, and evaluation; (c) alignment across projects through coordination and evaluation; and (d) purposeful coordination through the TASN Quarterly and midyear meetings that all TASN projects attend. Additionally, during FFY 2017, each TASN project participated in a 3 plus 2 review, garnering feedback from a national stakeholder group on strengths and areas of growth for the overall system and each TASN project. This national stakeholder group included representatives from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs, the NCSI, the Center for Parent Information and Resources, Michigan's Integrated Technology Supports, the Kansas State Board of Education, and Kansas school districts. As evidenced in monthly TASN Leadership Team minutes, recommendations were utilized by the TASN Leadership Team to continue to enhance and refine the TASN structures, specifically determining adjustments for TASN 3.0 priorities

and the Request for Application process; increasing support to early career special education administrators; expanding family engagement, early childhood, and secondary transition professional development; enacting recommendations of the Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia; enhancing evaluation of implementation and outcomes as outlined in the TASN logic model; and identifying unmet needs and alignment opportunities across the state.

An annual survey asked all TASN providers for input on the effectiveness of leadership, coordination, and the TASN evaluation. The survey included Likert-type and open-ended response items. When asked how well the TASN Coordination project performed various duties, a majority of TASN providers responded *Working Well* or *Working Very Well* to each survey item. See Table 6 for a selection of survey results.

Table 6

*FFY 2015–FFY 2019 Coordination Project: Effectiveness Survey*

Survey Items	Percentage of TASN providers who responded <i>Working Well</i> or <i>Working Very Well</i>				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Support you in implementing your project’s scope of work	87.8%	91.9%	90.0%	93.6%	92.5%
Help you understand how your project aligns with the MTSS framework	70.7%	75.0%	83.8%	82.2%	76.9%
Further your understanding of other TASN projects	68.3%	76.3%	82.5%	82.6%	95.3%
Keep you up-to-date on KSDE priorities and legislative mandates	69.5%	81.6%	90.0%	85.1%	93.0%
Collaborate with you to address challenges	76.9%	78.4%	80.0%	87.0%	91.4%

When asked how well the TASN Evaluation project performed various duties, a majority of TASN providers responded *Working Well* or *Working Very Well* to each survey item. See Table 7 for a selection of survey results.

Table 7

*FFY 2015–FFY 2019 Evaluation Project: Effectiveness Survey*

Survey Items	Percentage of TASN providers who responded <i>Working Well</i> or <i>Working Very Well</i>				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Support your project to make data-informed decisions	87.5%	85.3%	87.5%	95.7%	88.1%
Provide evaluation data in a timely manner	92.3%	88.6%	95.0%	95.7%	97.7%
Provide evaluation data in an easily interpretable manner	92.5%	88.6%	100.0%	95.7%	97.7%
Collaborate with your project to address challenges	87.5%	83.3%	87.8%	95.7%	95.0%

Each year, results of the feedback survey are reviewed at the monthly TASN Leadership Team meetings, with refinements made based on these data. These refinements have included increasing the collaboration among project directors to expand participants’ understanding of other TASN projects and alignment to the Kansas Integrated Accountability System, the ESEA Consolidated Plan, and the Kansas State Board of Education vision. Additionally, an annual evaluation brief was developed for each TASN project as a method to develop a shared understanding of the TASN projects’ implementation and medium-term outcomes. Evaluation briefs for FFY 2015, FFY 2016, FFY 2017, FFY 2018, and FFY 2019 are available at <https://ksdetasn.org/evaluation/tasn-provider-evaluation-briefs>.

In addition to the evaluation of each TASN project, the overall system was evaluated to ensure that conditions were created to facilitate implementation across the state. During FFY 2016, 408 professional learning events were posted through the TASN website. This increased to 420 professional learning events in FFY 2017, 428 events in FFY 2018, and 439 events in FFY 2019. Participants rated aspects of these events on a scale from 1 (*Strongly Disagree*) to 5 (*Strongly Agree*). Results from these ratings are outlined in Table 8:

Table 8

*Survey Determining the Effectiveness of TASN Professional Learning Events*

Survey Items	Average Ratings (scale 1–5)			
	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
I understand how the content/practice is intended to improve outcomes for children and youth.	4.34	4.37	4.35	4.40
I will use the content or implement the practice(s) from this training.	4.25	4.27	4.31	4.33
Overall, the training was of high quality.	4.25	4.30	4.31	4.33

Additionally, using the Observation Checklist for High-Quality Professional Development (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, Brussow, & Langham, 2015), the TASN Evaluation project observed and evaluated 45 trainings in FFY 2015, 68 trainings in FFY 2016, 73 trainings in FFY 2017, 73 trainings in FFY 2018, and 61 trainings in FFY 2019. Results from the six domains on this checklist revealed that the majority of trainings each year met the criteria for high quality within each domain, as demonstrated in Table 9. Following each observation, the observer from the TASN Evaluation project delivered a coaching email to the TASN provider with the option of additional evaluation coaching meetings.

Table 9

*Annual Observation Checklist for High-Quality Professional Development (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, Brussow, & Langham, 2015) Results by Domain*

Domains	Percentage of TASN events meeting the criteria for high quality within each domain				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Preparation	80.0%	91.2%	97.3%	97.3%	100.0%
Introduction	93.3%	92.6%	94.5%	95.9%	98.4%
Demonstration	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	97.3%	100.0%
Engagement	91.1%	95.6%	97.3%	94.5%	96.7%
Evaluation/Reflection	91.1%	85.3%	89.0%	87.7%	91.8%
Mastery	75.6%	72.1%	83.6%	82.2%	86.9%

### Stakeholder Involvement in the SSIP Evaluation

***Outcome 1d. The KSDE and TASN Make Data-Based Decisions and Share Data Through Communication Feedback Loops.*** Communication loops have been put in place to facilitate meaningful collaboration with stakeholders to assist in making data-based decisions. Communication modes include weekly KSDE Special Education and Title Services team meetings, monthly SPP/APR Committee meetings and TASN Leadership Team meetings, bimonthly KSDE workgroup and stakeholder meetings, TASN Quarterly Meetings, TASN midyear meetings, and annual KSDE conferences. Meeting minutes indicated that data-based decision making was a consistent component across committees and workgroups. Utilization-focused evaluation structures have been put in place in each TASN project, and with the support of the TASN Evaluation project, data are consistently collected, analyzed, and interpreted. The utilization-focused evaluation results are then used to inform decisions across all levels of the system.

In FFY 2019, KSDE leadership conducted 13 midyear meetings with TASN projects. The TASN Coordination project facilitated each meeting, which included the director of the TASN Evaluation project and KSDE Special Education and Title Services leadership. Each of the TASN projects used implementation and outcome data to inform decisions about maintaining or adjusting scope, sequence, coaching strategies, and staffing. As observed by the TASN Evaluation lead, each meeting included data-based discussions that resulted in confirmation of the professional learning approach or adjustments to the project’s implementation process.

The KSDE shared data and utilized stakeholder input through communication loops. This included disseminating information and facilitating feedback from:

- KSDE staff through cross-department workgroup meetings and weekly division meetings;
- State-level stakeholder groups through the Special Education Advisory Council, the ESEA Advisory Council, and the Accreditation Advisory Council

- All TASN projects through the mandatory TASN quarterly meetings and midyear meetings; and
- Districts through monthly webinars, conferences, training events, a virtual community of practice, listservs, emails, and the KSDE and TASN websites.

The Kansas TASN Evaluation Brief (available at <https://ksdetasn.org/evaluation/tasn-provider-evaluation-briefs>), designed to inform stakeholders of the depth and breadth of TASN implementation, provides a snapshot of the TASN evaluation for FFY 2019.

*Stakeholder Involvement in Decision Making.* Stakeholders informed SSIP implementation and evaluation decisions by providing input and feedback and by participating in decision making groups following the principles of *Leading by Convening* (Cashman et al., 2014). Data were shared and discussed with stakeholders in a variety of ways, including at stakeholder meetings, through evaluation briefs, and through workgroups. As evidenced by meeting attendance and minutes, stakeholders were involved in the development and enactment of the KESA, informed TASN system improvements, and were included in decisions concerning the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment. Analysis of the FFY 2016 meeting minutes showed that the Special Education Advisory Council stakeholders provided feedback to the KSDE regarding infrastructure, implementation, and outcomes of the SSIP, Kansas MTSS and Alignment, the Kansas SPDG, TASN, and early learning infrastructure. Analysis of the FFY 2017 and FFY 2018 meeting agendas and minutes showed that the Special Education Advisory Council stakeholders provided input and feedback to the KSDE regarding TASN evaluation, Kansas State Board of Education goals, emergency safety interventions, the Kansas SPDG, the ESEA Consolidated Plan, and the SPP/APR. Analysis of the FFY 2019 meeting agendas and minutes showed that the Special Education Advisory Council stakeholders provided input and feedback to the KSDE regarding family engagement, secondary transition, personnel shortages, the SSIP, and continuous learning adjustments due to COVID-19. Related to the SSIP, the Kansas State Board of Education provided feedback regarding the KESA progress, early childhood strategic planning, implementation of school mental health evidence-based practices, Legislative Task Force on Dyslexia recommendations, Blue Ribbon Task Force on Bullying recommendations, and continuous learning. The feedback from stakeholder groups was used to inform continual improvement efforts.

In March 2020 as a response to the COVID-19 interruption, the stakeholder involvement of LEA special education directors through monthly webinars and quarterly in-person meetings was expanded upon with the addition of weekly virtual Community of Practice (CoP) that facilitated the SEA to LEA and LEA to SEA communication and feedback loops. In late May 2020, 56 participating special education directors provided feedback regarding the effectiveness of the CoP. Of the 48 respondents to the question *Do you think this CoP should continue beyond the current pandemic support*, 72.9% responded *Definitely Yes*, and respondents overwhelming rated the elements of the CoP as beneficial or very beneficial, including:

- *The what: KSDE updates and guidance* (95.8%);
- *So what: Practices/processes for implementation* (95.8%);
- *Now what: Discussion of how to move forward* (87.5%); and
- *Guest speakers* (91.6%).

Regarding the identified goals of the CoP, special education directors felt that the goals were addressed or fully addressed, specifically:

- *Facilitating a policy-to-practice feedback loop (KSDE to LEAs and LEAs to KSDE) (97.8%);*
- *Providing a forum for brainstorming and collaborating with colleagues (87.5%); and*
- *Sharing tools, frameworks, and processes to use back in your local district (95.8%).*

The Kansas MTSS and Alignment project utilized stakeholder feedback to inform data-based decisions as evidenced by observations of the midyear and TASN Leadership Team meetings. The decisions included (a) keeping the application process for districts open year-round and customizing the training based on districts' needs as determined by data; (b) addition of staff focused on early childhood special education, math interventions, and district systems; (c) inclusion of tiered social and emotional supports; and (d) utility of data for local-level decision making. The following list provides detailed information about these decisions:

- a. Previously, the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project accepted applications from districts during a short timeframe each year. Through feedback from the required district-level needs assessments, district leadership indicated that flexibility in the submission timeline would enable districts to complete a comprehensive needs assessment and access professional learning. Through enactment of this decision since FFY 2016, districts entered the professional learning process through a customized timeline determined through collaboration between the Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers and the district leadership team. Instead of a standardized training process, Kansas MTSS and Alignment customized the professional learning process for each district to meet district needs based on needs assessment and implementation data. In FFY 2019, an additional pre-implementation layer of professional development was incorporated into the training sequence, enabling districts to customize their entry process and formulate district structures that would facilitate the effective implementation of tiered supports within schools.
- b. As a districtwide initiative, Kansas MTSS and Alignment facilitates professional learning for early childhood through secondary educators. Universal screening in reading, math, and behavior is completed three times per year to monitor growth and determine the intervention needs of students, specifically students with disabilities. The Kansas MTSS and Alignment project expanded their staff and created content-area collaborative teams to integrate new research finding into professional learning and concept maps. To better meet the needs of early childhood educators, the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project has grown from one staff member with expertise in early childhood special education during FFY 2016 to a team of four in FFY 2018 and continuing to FFY2019.
- c. The collaborative efforts of the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project also expanded to address the reading, math, behavior, and social and emotional needs of each student comprehensively. The Kansas MTSS and Alignment project incorporated trauma-informed and resiliency practices into professional learning, capitalizing on

the expertise of existing State Trainers and the Kansas SPDG School Mental Health Initiative.

- d. In addition to collaboration across divisions within the KSDE, the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project collaborated extensively with stakeholders to expand evidenced-based practices related to family engagement and social and emotional intervention practices. To ensure that evaluation measures provided actionable data for district implementation teams, the TASN Evaluation project conducted focus groups with 11 administrators during FFY 2016. Based on themes from these focus groups, the School Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2012) was expanded into the Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017) following extensive revisions during FFY 2017, and one item on the Family Engagement Survey (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, & Groff, 2015) was revised. During FFY 2018, an external evaluation of MTSS processes was conducted in one SIMR cohort district. The results showed that expertise within collaborative teams resulted in strong data-based decision making processes for interventions and the engagement of all students within the core curriculum. During FFY 2019, an external evaluation of MTSS processes was conducted in secondary schools within a district implementing the Kansas MTSS and Alignment framework. Results showed that through adaptive and shared leadership, these secondary schools were effective in meeting the reading, math, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of all students, following protocols that ensured interventions were matched to each student's needs and purposefully engaging families in learning and decision-making processes.

Kansas MTSS and Alignment project leadership shared data with the KSDE through the formal structures of midyear and TASN Leadership Team meetings as well as actively participating on KSDE advisory councils and workgroups. The Kansas MTSS and Alignment project also shared data with other TASN projects through the TASN Quarterly Meetings and ongoing collaborative efforts and with district leadership through the series of in-district trainings and coaching visits. The TASN Evaluation project verified data-based decision making and data sharing through document analyses and observations at meetings and trainings. To facilitate the communication of data, the TASN Evaluation project developed a Kansas MTSS and Alignment Evaluation Brief (available at <https://ksdetasn.org/evaluation/tasn-provider-evaluation-briefs>), which was disseminated to KSDE staff and other stakeholder groups.

Stakeholder involvement informed training, coaching, and technical assistance for all implementation drivers and all stages of implementation. Stakeholders included district personnel, community and family members, and state-level stakeholder groups.

### **Implementation and Outcomes of Coherent Improvement Strategy 2.0: Evidence-Based Practices**

The Kansas MTSS and Alignment project supported districts in implementing evidence-based practices. The practices included the provision of evidence-based core and intervention curricula, universal screening, progress monitoring, data-based decision making, and family engagement.

## Short-Term Outcomes: Knowledge, Skills, and Collaboration

***Outcome 2a. LEA Educators Demonstrate the Knowledge and Skills Necessary to Implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment.*** During FFY 2019, data from multiple evaluation measures demonstrated that educators have the knowledge and skills necessary to implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment. District and building leadership teams participated in five to six full days of ongoing training to develop the necessary structures to implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment. The Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers provided both onsite and virtual coaching following the coaching practices outlined in the NCSI's Effective Coaching of Teachers: Fidelity Tool Rubric (Pierce, 2014), including adherence to essential ingredients, quality, dose, and participant responsiveness. As a measure of knowledge and skill development, a TASN evaluator observed seven of the 58 Kansas MTSS and Alignment trainings. The evaluation of the training data revealed that each of the trainings met all (100%) of the indicators related to knowledge and skill development according to the Observation Checklist for High-Quality Professional Development (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, Brussow, & Langham, 2015). The indicators are:

- *Builds shared vocabulary required to implement and sustain the practice;*
- *Includes opportunities for participants to apply content and/or practice skills during training;*
- *Includes opportunities for participants to reflect on learning; and*
- *Details follow-up activities that require participants to apply their learning.*

***Outcome 2b. LEA Educators Collaborate to Implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment.*** The demonstration of educator collaboration was analyzed using evaluation data collected from ongoing training evaluations and a districtwide instructional staff survey. Kansas SIMR cohort districts completed the Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017), an evaluation measure of personal implementation and stakeholder feedback of Kansas MTSS and Alignment constructs. Results from 133 instructional staff in SIMR cohort districts showed that most rated the following statements regarding collaborative teams as a 4 (*Agree*) or 5 (*Strongly Agree*) on a 5-point, Likert-type scale:

- *Team members follow established team norms (e.g., speak directly, ask questions, express support, restate ideas) (90.9%) and*
- *Meetings are productive and focused on student progress (80.5%).*

Results from four administrators in the SIMR cohort districts showed that the most rated the following statements regarding building leadership teams as a 4 (*Agree*) or 5 (*Strongly Agree*) on a 5-point, Likert-type scale:

- *Team members follow established team norms (e.g., speak directly, ask questions, express support, restate ideas) (100%);*
- *Meetings are productive and focused on implementation fidelity and progress (100%);*
- *My building leadership team is responsive to the needs and concerns of collaborative teacher teams (100%);*
- *Building leadership team decisions are communicated to collaborative teacher teams (100%); and*
- *The district leadership team is responsive to the needs and concerns of building leadership teams (100%).*

Additionally, a TASN evaluator observed and evaluated seven of the 58 Kansas MTSS and Alignment trainings. Of the seven trainings, all (100%) met the following indicator of high-quality professional development related to collaboration: *Facilitates opportunities for participants to interact with each other related to training content*. Throughout the professional development process, Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale data were triangulated with MTSS State Trainer observations reported on the Checklist for Implementation Readiness (Kansas MTSS and Alignment Project, 2016).

### **Medium-Term Outcomes: Installation of Evidence-Based Instructional Practices**

Medium-term outcomes addressed the installation of instructional practices, which included the provision of an evidence-based core curriculum and interventions, universal screening, progress monitoring, data-based decision making, and family engagement within Kansas MTSS and Alignment.

***Outcome 2c. District and School Administrators Create the Conditions That Facilitate Implementation.*** The implementation science drivers of Facilitative Administration and Adaptive/Technical Leadership were evaluated at both the structuring and implementation phases. Data collected from SIMR cohort districts through the Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017) showed that schools had installed building leadership teams, collaborative teams, and districtwide assessment schedules. Thirty-two percent of instructional staff were members of building leadership teams; 61% of instructional staff were members of collaborative teams. Through the Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017), instructional staff rated administrative support. Of the instructional staff in SIMR cohort districts who responded to the item *My administrators are committed to implementing tiered levels of reading supports*, 91.1% rated the statement as *Agree* or *Strongly Agree*.

***Outcome 2d. District and School Leadership Teams and Grade-Level Collaborative Teams Make Data-Based Decisions and Share Data Through Communication Loops.*** Through the Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017), instructional staff rated involvement in the data-based decision making process. Of the 133 instructional staff in the SIMR cohort districts who responded to the survey, most rated the statements as a 4 (*Agree*) or 5 (*Strongly Agree*) on a 5-point Likert-type scale:

- *My collaborative team regularly shares in the responsibility of formal problem solving using data to make decisions (85.7%);*
- *My building leadership team is responsive to the needs and concerns of collaborative teams (83.3%); and*
- *Building leadership team decisions are communicated to collaborative teams (85.9%).*

Additionally, for the portion of the survey dedicated to results from administrators, the SIMR cohort districts showed that most of the administrators indicated that the following structures have been implemented in their buildings:

- *My school has a process for regularly sharing data with staff (100%);*
- *My building leadership team regularly engages in formal problem solving using data to make decisions (100%);*

- *Students' reading, math, behavior, and social-emotional data are reviewed together to inform decisions (100%);*
- *My building leadership team is responsive to the needs and concerns of collaborative teacher teams (100%);*
- *Building leadership team decisions are communicated to collaborative teacher teams (100%);*
- *The district leadership team is responsive to the needs and concerns of building leadership teams (100%); and*
- *District leadership team decisions are communicated to my building leadership team (100%).*

The Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers facilitated district and building leadership teams in reflecting on the data, including Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017) results, and identifying system improvements based on the data. Throughout the professional development process, Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale results were triangulated with MTSS State Trainer observations that occurred through in-district coaching and on the Checklist for Implementation Readiness (Kansas MTSS and Alignment Project, 2016).

### **Long-Term Outcomes of Implementation of Evidence-Based Instructional Practices With Fidelity**

***Outcome 2e. Evidence-Based Reading Curriculum Is Implemented With Fidelity.*** Of the instructional staff in the SIMR cohort districts who reported providing Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3 reading instruction on the Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017), most rated the following statements as a 4 (*Agree*) or 5 (*Strongly Agree*) on a 5-point, Likert-type scale:

- *I have the technology and resources that I need to teach the core and/or intervention reading curricula with fidelity (82.1%);*
- *The core reading curriculum is being implemented as it was intended (use of materials, sequencing, instructional strategies and routines, sufficient time for student practice) (80.5%);*
- *Adequate, protected core instructional time is provided for reading (85.9%);*
- *The data suggest that the core reading curriculum meets students' needs (67.1%);*
- *When a student isn't making adequate progress in the core reading curriculum, instructional practices are adjusted (87.2%);*
- *I review reading universal screening data for every student I teach (76.6%);*
- *Students who meet the benchmark on the reading universal screener receive adequate, appropriate instruction (81.6%); and*
- *All students, including students with disabilities and English learners, are included in core reading instruction (91.0%).*

Of the administrators in the SIMR cohort districts who responded to the survey, 75% indicated that, for reading, *adequate, protected core instructional time* has been implemented schoolwide. Most of the responding administrators in the SIMR cohort districts responded *Yes, implemented schoolwide* to the following items:

- *A research-based core curriculum that addresses the standards and essential elements of reading is taught (75.0%);*
- *All students, including students with disabilities and English learners, are included in core reading instruction (100%);*
- *Administration ensures that teachers are administering universal reading screeners correctly (75.0%);*
- *If less than 80% of students are at benchmark, we focus on improving instructional practices within the core reading curriculum (75.0%); and*
- *Administration ensures that training and coaching are provided to teachers to improve the fidelity of implementation (66.7%).*

District and building leadership teams, in collaboration with Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers, analyzed district- and building-level Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017) data to improve implementation fidelity of Kansas MTSS and Alignment, leading to improved student outcomes. Data analyses included examining curricula, assessments, leadership, empowering culture, and instruction at all tiers, as well as determining the efficacy of building leadership teams and collaborative teams. Data analyses resulted in the implementation of district- and building-level action planning to continually enhance and refine the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment. Focus groups conducted with building principals in FFY 2016 identified the data from educators as critical for evaluating the fidelity of implementation through a self-correcting feedback loop. Specific actions related to implementation of evidence-based reading curricula included providing additional professional development on an evidence-based reading curriculum and instructional practices and developing a communication plan to share data with instructional staff on a regular basis.

***Outcome 2f. Evidence-Based Interventions in Reading Are Provided Based on Universal Screening Data and Decision Protocols.*** Of the 133 instructional staff in the SIMR cohort districts who responded to items on the Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017), most rated the following statements as a 4 (*Agree*) or 5 (*Strongly Agree*) on a 5-point, Likert-type scale:

- *My school has a clear plan for supporting students that are nonresponsive to the Tier I support (76.3%);*
- *I review reading progress monitoring data for every student that I teach who receives reading interventions (79.2%);*
- *When screening data indicate need regarding a student's reading, the student is placed in appropriate interventions (84.2%);*
- *Diagnostic assessment data are used to inform decisions about strategic and intensive reading interventions for individual students (88.2%);*
- *Trained staff are providing reading interventions (83.3%);*

- *Reading interventions are being implemented as intended (use of materials, sequencing, pacing, instructional strategies and routines, sufficient time for student practice) (72.7%);*
- *The data suggest that the reading interventions meet students' needs (71.4%);*
- *When progress monitoring data indicate need regarding a student's reading progress, the instructional practices in the interventions are adjusted (81.1%);*
- *Decision guidelines are followed to move students among and between groups for reading interventions (82.9%); and*
- *Families are informed of their child's need for and placement into reading interventions (74.0%).*

The majority of the administrators in the SIMR cohort districts who completed the survey responded *Yes, implemented schoolwide* to the following items regarding interventions:

- *A standard protocol has been developed for identifying intensive, strategic, and benchmark and beyond support matched to student needs (66.7%);*
- *Decision guidelines determine the need, intensity, and duration of reading interventions (75.0%);*
- *Adequate instructional time is provided for reading interventions (75.0%);*
- *Trained staff provide reading interventions (75.0%); and*
- *Families are informed of their child's need for and placement into reading interventions (66.7%).*

District and building leadership teams, in collaboration with Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers, analyzed district- and building-level Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale (Gaumer Erickson et al., 2017) data to improve implementation fidelity of Kansas MTSS and Alignment, leading to improved student outcomes. Data analyses included examining curricula, assessments, leadership, empowering culture, and instruction at all tiers along with determining the efficacy of building leadership teams and collaborative teams. Data analyses resulted in the implementation of district- and building-level action planning to continually enhance and refine the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment. Focus groups conducted with building principals in FFY 2016 identified the data from educators as critical for evaluating the fidelity of implementation through a self-correcting feedback loop. Specific actions taken by SIMR cohort districts related to implementation of reading interventions included the development of standard protocols and a decision matrix of evidence-based interventions and decision rules to determine the need, intensity, and duration of interventions.

***Outcome 2g. Families Are Engaged in the Data-Based Decision Making and the Progress Monitoring Processes for Their Children.*** The Family Engagement Survey (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, & Groff, 2015) was developed and deployed to gain feedback from family stakeholders. The survey is based on the National PTA Standards for Family–School Partnerships, and items are separated into the domains of Welcoming Environment, Supporting Student Learning, Effective Communication, Sharing Power and Advocacy, and Community Involvement. Results in Table 10 indicate that SIMR cohort families, including 2,787 responses in FFY 2015, 2,103 responses in FFY 2016, 2,405 responses in FFY 2017, 2,578 responses in

FFY 2018, and 2,240 responses in FFY 2019, continue to be engaged in decision making for their children.

Table 10

*Family Engagement Survey Results 2015–16 Through 2018–19 by Item*

Items	Percentage of respondents answering <i>Agree</i> or <i>Strongly Agree</i>				
	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
I'm provided understandable data on my child's progress.	77.9%	82.3%	83.8%	84.6%	83.6%
School staff consult me before making important decisions about my child's education.	60.4%	67.6%	71.2%	75.4%	73.9%
If my child receives additional supports, I am provided with information about these supports.	58.6%	65.7%	71.2%	73.4%	72.9%
School staff keep me well informed about how my child is doing in school.	65.4%	73.4%	77.7%	79.4%	77.9%
I have a good working relationship with school staff in which we solve problems together.	66.6%	74.3%	75.5%	80.2%	76.9%

District and building leadership teams reviewed building- and district-level Family Engagement Survey (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, & Groff, 2015) data in order to identify strengths and target specific areas for improvement. Focus groups conducted with building principals in FFY 2016 identified the Family Engagement Survey (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, & Groff, 2015) data as critical for evaluating the fidelity of implementation through a self-correcting feedback loop. Specific actions related to family engagement included developing a process for regularly sharing data with all families and embedding family engagement into the implementation protocol for reading interventions.

**The Impact on Student Outcomes**

Impact addresses student-level outcomes resulting from the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment.

***Outcome 2h. Students Make Progress in Reading Achievement.*** The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) does not have individual student assessment data to report in the FFY 2019 SPP/APR. Due to statewide, extended school closures in the 2019-2020 school year related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Kansas as ordered by the Governor in Executive Order #20-07, it was not possible for schools to administer valid and reliable individual student assessments. Data from FFY 2018 is reported in Table 11.

Table 11

*Percentage of K–5 Students With Disabilities at Benchmark, Requiring Tier 2 Interventions, and Requiring Tier 3 Interventions in Reading.*

	Fall 2017	Spring 2018	Difference
At Benchmark	26.7%	31.1%	4.4%
Tier 2	26.3%	24.6%	-1.7%
Tier 3	46.9%	44.3%	-2.6%
	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Difference
At Benchmark	26.2%	30.3%	4.1%
Tier 2	26.9%	21.2%	-5.7%
Tier 3	46.9%	48.5%	1.6%

For students to reach grade-level benchmark on a CBM GOM, students must achieve both 95% accuracy and fluency consistent with the grade-level criteria. When students struggle learning to read, intervention initially focuses on improvement in accuracy and then shifts to improvement in fluency, which allows the student to achieve benchmark. In FFY 2016, the percentage of students with disabilities in grades two through five who achieved the 95% accuracy criteria improved by 23.0%, from 42.2% in fall to 65.2% in spring. In FFY 2017, the percentage meeting the 95% accuracy criteria improved by 34.1%, from 37.7% in fall to 71.8% in spring. In FFY 2018, the percentage meeting the 95% accuracy criteria improved by 24.4%, from 39.1% in fall to 63.5% in spring. Developing interventions focused on students’ needs resulted in individual student growth, which is expected to continue to result in increased student achievement in the FFY 2019 SIMR data. In addition to gains in accuracy, 34.9% of students with disabilities served by SIMR cohort districts exceeded the expected grade-level growth for all students during FFY 2017, with some classrooms seeing over 60% of their students with disabilities making more than expected gains.

***Outcome 2i (SIMR). Increased Percentage of Students With Disabilities in Grades K–5 Score at Grade Level in Reading as Measured by Curriculum-Based Measure General Outcome Measure (CBM GOM).***

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) does not have individual student assessment data to report in the FFY 2019 SPP/APR. It was not possible for schools to administer valid and reliable individual student assessments due to statewide extended school building closures in the 2019-2020 school year related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The timeframe of statewide school building closures as ordered by the Governor in Executive Order #20-07 preceded and extended beyond the SIMR data collection window.

**Implementation and Outcomes of Coherent Improvement Strategy 3.0: Evaluation.**

The Kansas TASN Evaluation project, in collaboration with KSDE leadership, TASN providers, and stakeholder groups, designed and installed the multiyear Kansas SSIP Evaluation Plan (Appendix C) that outlines short- and long-term objectives aligned to the Kansas SSIP Theory of Action (Appendix A) and Kansas SSIP Logic Model (Appendix B). The TASN Evaluation project monitors adherence to timelines, implementation, outcomes of infrastructure development, and support for district implementation of evidence-based practices.

The evaluation indicators align with the following five Kansas TASN evaluation outcome domains:

1. Participants increase awareness, knowledge, and skills;
2. Administrators and supervisors create conditions that support implementation;
3. Participants implement evidence-based practices with fidelity;
4. Students and children improve academic, behavioral, and social outcomes; and
5. Schools and organizations sustain implementation with fidelity.

The evaluation measures and timeline were carefully designed to support data-based decision making in the areas of infrastructure development, alignment, and the implementation of evidence-based practices. At both the state and local levels, improvements are facilitated through the use of a problem-solving approach referred to as the self-correcting feedback loop. By using the self-correcting feedback loop, school and district teams are provided timely data that helps guide them to make data-informed decisions at the student, grade, school, and district levels. Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers function as district coaches and utilize the data to prioritize improvements in knowledge, skills, and implementation within districts. The KSDE TASN Leadership Team analyzes aggregate student, district, and project data to inform infrastructure development and systems improvements. KSDE leadership, in collaboration with stakeholder groups, utilizes evaluation data to examine the effectiveness of the implementation, measure progress toward achieving intended improvements, and make modifications to the Kansas SSIP as necessary. Utilizing the NCSI SSIP Infrastructure Development and Progress Measurement Tool: Using Implementation Drivers & Stages of Implementation (NCSI, 2018), the Kansas SSIP is in the initial implementation stage or full implementation stage within each implementation driver.

For FFY 2019, the overall focus of the Kansas SSIP continued without modifications. As a result of using the self-correcting feedback loop, data are continually utilized to determine infrastructure adjustments, training, technical assistance, and coaching necessary to support districts' implementation and refinement of Kansas MTSS and Alignment. Beginning in March 2020, adjustments were made to the professional learning format, with all workshops, facilitated meetings, and coaching sessions moved to virtual modalities. While SIMR outcome data were not available for FFY 2019, analyses of the implementation data determined that sufficient progress was made in the implementation of coherent improvement strategies that support the achievement of the SIMR. Analyses were guided by implementation science research and the final determination was that modifications to the improvement strategies or timeline are not needed at this time. As evidenced by FFY 2018 SIMR data, students with disabilities in kindergarten through fifth grade are demonstrating growth in reading achievement.

***Stakeholder Involvement in the SSIP Evaluation.*** Stakeholders informed SSIP evaluation decisions by providing input and feedback and by participating in decision-making groups. Stakeholders, from families to state-level groups, are kept informed and provide input at all levels and stages of SSIP implementation. Detailed stakeholder engagement results are located in outcomes sections 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 2b, 2c, and 2g. Stakeholder feedback, which consisted of both quantitative and qualitative methods, was utilized to evaluate implementation

and outcomes of the Kansas SSIP and the progress toward achieving intended improvements in the Kansas SIMR. Results of a formative, utilization-focused evaluation with stakeholder input, aligned with implementation science and guided by data-based implementation, indicate that the Kansas SSIP is on track to continue to impact student achievement.

The TASN Evaluation project facilitated input from stakeholder groups, including the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council, KSDE and TASN providers, district and school leadership, school instructional staff, and families. The TASN Evaluation project encouraged these stakeholder groups to ask clarifying questions in order to determine ease of interpretation, the accuracy of the graphical displays, and the usefulness of the data. In FFY 2016, an outside evaluator reviewed the logic model and evaluation plan to determine the degree to which these documents followed the theory of change; included valid data-collection procedures; and, potentially, would result in the desired outcomes. Results from the outside evaluator indicated that the logic was precise from short-term to long-term outcomes and that the measures adequately substantiated the evaluation indicators and theory of change. In FFY 2016, focus groups/interviews were conducted with administrators regarding the utility of the Family Engagement Survey (Noonan, Gaumer Erickson, & Groff, 2015) results. Themes showed that the data resulted in the improvement of family engagement practices which positively impacted the rating of engagement from parents/guardians. In FFY 2018 and FFY 2019, an outside evaluator conducted process evaluations within elementary and secondary schools, enacting quantitative and qualitative methods to determine the MTSS structures and processes that positively impacted the reading outcomes for students with disabilities. Results revealed that the adaptive leadership and data-based decision making structures, core instruction student engagement practices, family engagement, and systematized intervention protocols positively impacted the achievement of students with disabilities.

## **D. Data Quality Issues**

### **Overview**

The quality of the evaluation data was examined for limitations that could affect progress reports or the implementation of the SSIP in achieving the SIMR. To ensure that quality of the evaluation was not affected, policies and procedures of the Kansas Data Quality Assurances were closely monitored. The KSDE Data Quality Assurance policies include training and data certification of district staff. Furthermore, the TASN Evaluation project provided additional data verification. The IDEA Data Center guidance on data collection, analysis, and reporting was reviewed to confirm that Kansas Indicator 17 data are timely, accurate, and complete. Self-correcting feedback loops have been constructed within the context of the evaluation to ensure that data support decision making for schools, districts, TASN providers, and the KSDE. The KSDE has not identified concerns related to the quality or quantity of data used for reporting SSIP implementation or results.

### **Data Quality Addressed Through Meta-Evaluation**

A meta-evaluation was conducted to ensure the evaluation met the *Joint Committee Standards for Educational Evaluation* (2010). These standards relate to the utility, accountability, feasibility, propriety, and accuracy of the evaluation. In addition to the evaluation audit and process evaluation conducted by external evaluators, in each year (i.e., FFY 2015, FFY 2016, FFY 2017, FFY 2018, and FFY 2019), all TASN providers were asked to provide input on the

effectiveness of the TASN system evaluation by completing a survey including both Likert and open-ended response items. When asked how well the TASN Evaluation project performed various duties, a majority of TASN providers responded *Working well* or *Working very well* to each survey item. Specifically, more than 85% of TASN providers selected one of these two responses for the items: *Support your project to make data-informed decisions*, *Provide evaluation data in a timely manner*, *Provide evaluation data in an easily interpretable manner*, and *Collaborate with your project to address challenges*. The results of the feedback survey were reviewed at least annually at TASN Leadership Team meetings, and specific improvements (e.g., scheduling of additional meetings with TASN projects to interpret data and address challenges) were made based on these data. (See Section C: Outcome 1c for annual comparisons).

### **E. Progress Toward Achieving Intended Improvements**

The KSDE made progress toward achieving the intended improvements. State infrastructure progress, described in Section C: Coherent Improvement Strategy 1.0, demonstrated increased alignment of priorities to the Kansas State Board of Education vision and outcomes, including the KESA, Kansas Learning Network School Improvement System, and the TASN. Through high levels of collaboration and continuous data-based feedback, the KSDE has enacted improvements that enable districts to implement evidence-based practices.

As described in Section C: Coherent Improvement Strategy 2.0, school districts, including the SIMR cohort through utilization of Kansas MTSS and Alignment, have expanded implementation of evidence-based practices. The implementation of evidence-based practices ensures that each student, specifically each student with a disability, receives the instruction and interventions necessary to improve reading, math, behavioral, and social-emotional achievement. These practices included provisions of evidence-based core curricula and interventions, universal screening, progress monitoring, data-based decision making, and family engagement. During FFY 2019, SIMR cohort districts implemented Kansas MTSS and Alignment constructs with fidelity, collected and analyzed implementation fidelity data, and enacted data-based decisions through self-correcting feedback loops. Data demonstrate that the SIMR Cohort districts are making improvements in the implementation of evidence-based practices that will result in the desired effects of improved reading proficiency for students with disabilities in kindergarten through 5th grade.

As described in Section C: Coherent Improvement Strategy 3.0, the evaluation of the SSIP is comprehensive, utilization focused, and designed to support decision making at the classroom, school, district, provider, and state levels. The meta-evaluation confirmed the evaluation measures, processes, and analyses meet the needs of the decision makers at these levels and follow the theory of change and logic model through aligned short-term, medium-term, and long-term outcomes leading to the SIMR.

## **F. Plans for Next Year**

### **Activities and Timeline**

During FFY 2020, the Kansas SSIP will continue to be implemented as detailed in the Kansas SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategy Activity Timeline and Status (Appendix D). The SSIP evaluation activities, along with the timelines, are in the Kansas SSIP Evaluation Plan (Appendix C). While professional learning has moved in large part to virtual modalities, the learning targets and implementation process will continue to be followed.

### **Barriers and Supports**

The most common barrier consistently identified since FFY 2013 was implementation overload. Within the last six years, a variety of new initiatives have been implemented in the Kansas educational environment, including the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), a new Kansas State Board of Education vision and outcomes, a new accreditation system (KESA), the KSDE Kansans Can School Redesign project, and continually refined Kansas MTSS and Alignment recommendations. To address the overload barrier, additional attention has been given to improving alignment and communication and decreasing duplication of local efforts. While school building closures in March 2020 impacted all districts, KSDE, with a diverse stakeholder group, quickly released guidelines for continuous learning and produced a 1,200-page resource on navigating change. Additionally, a weekly, virtual community of practice for LEA special education directors was launched to provide direct communication between the KSDE and LEA and to facilitate collaboration among LEAs. An emerging role of the KSDE TASN is to provide readiness and sustainability for the KSDE Kansans Can School Redesign project, in addition to ensuring students with disabilities are receiving a high-quality education with specially designed instruction. The KSDE intentionally selects strong, evidence-based practices; embeds these practices within all initiatives; and works to align tools, forms, and reports. These efforts have been, and will continue to be, carried out through the scope of work within Coherent Improvement Strategy 1.0 of the Kansas SSIP. Schools will continue to enhance their implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment evidence-based practices focused on improving reading achievement for each student, including each student with a disability. No significant barriers to full implementation were evident, but implementation will continue to be monitored on a continuous basis through evaluation and coaching using the self-correcting feedback loop.

### **Support and Technical Assistance for the SEA**

To continue the sustained implementation of the Kansas SSIP, the KSDE will continue to access an array of in-state providers and national partners to support the KSDE and Kansas school districts. The KSDE will remain informed and engaged through utilizing the resources offered by the national technical assistance centers and matching those resources to the state's identified needs. The KSDE will continue to access existing customized technical assistance as determined by the KSDE, including supports available through the NCSI Cross-State Learning Collaboratives for Evidence-Based Practices and State Education Agency Leadership, the IDEA Data Center, and the SPDG Network. Through the SSIP infrastructure development, the state will increase the capacity to support the implementation of evidence-based practices, including increasing the capacity of technical assistance providers. In addition, there will be continued collaboration and support from all teams within the agency and dialog with stakeholders that will

provide opportunities for feedback to improve program alignment. Through the culmination of these efforts, the KSDE will continue to increase capacity and scale-up efforts that support Kansas school districts as schools as they strive to continually improve reading achievement for students with disabilities.

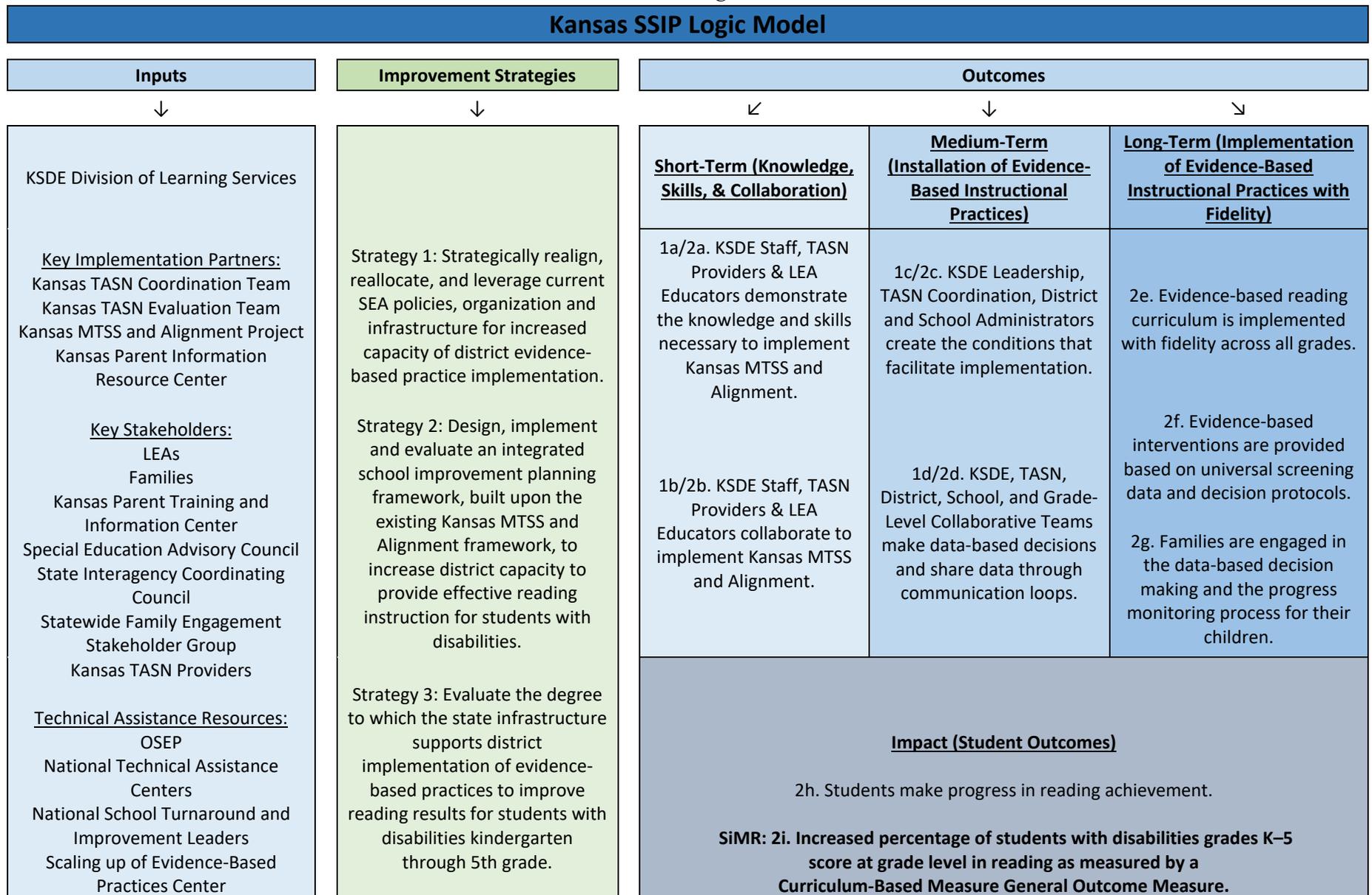
## References

- Cashman, J., Linehan, P., Purcell, L., Rosser, M., Schultz, S., & Skalski, S. (2014). *Leading by convening: A blueprint for authentic engagement*. Alexandria, VA: National Association of State Directors of Special Education.
- Gaumer Erickson, A.S., Monroe, K., & Noonan, P.M. (2017). *Inclusive MTSS implementation scale*. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas, Center for Research on Learning.
- Gaumer Erickson, A.S., Noonan, P.M., & Jenson, R. (2012). The school implementation scale: Measuring implementation in response to intervention models. *Learning Disabilities: A Contemporary Journal*, 10(2), 33-52.
- Joint Committee on Standards for Educational Evaluation. (2010). *The program evaluation standards*. Retrieved from <http://www.jcsee.org/program-evaluation-standards>
- Kansas MTSS and Alignment Project. (2016). *Checklist for implementation readiness*. Topeka, KS: Kansas State Department of Education.
- Kansas State Department of Education. (2020). *Navigating change: Kansas' guide for learning and school safety operations*. [https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Communications/Navigating%20Change/Navigating\\_Change.pdf?ver=2020-07-15-183032-667](https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Communications/Navigating%20Change/Navigating_Change.pdf?ver=2020-07-15-183032-667).
- National Center for Systemic Improvement (2018). *SSIP infrastructure development and progress measurement tool: Using implementation drivers & stages of implementation*. San Francisco, CA: WestEd.
- Noonan, P.M., Gaumer Erickson, A.S., Brussow, J., & Langham, A. (2015). *Observation checklist for high-quality professional development* [Updated]. Lawrence, KS: University of Kansas, Center for Research on Learning.
- Noonan, P. M., Gaumer Erickson, A.S., Groff, J. (2015). *Family engagement survey*. Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN). Adapted from *Family Engagement: A critical component to building an empowering culture in Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS)*. Topeka, KS: TASN. Available from <http://ksdetasn.org/resources/403>.
- Pierce, J. D. (2014). *Effective Coaching of Teachers: Fidelity Tool Rubric*. National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI). Washington, D.C.: NCSI. Available from <https://ncsi-library.wested.org/resources/59>.

Appendix A  
Kansas SSIP Theory of Action

1. KSDE has...		2. KSDE ...	3. Then ...	4. Then...	5. Then...
		<i>Conclusions from SSIP Analysis Activities</i>	<i>Coherent Improvement Strategy 1.0</i>	<i>Coherent Improvement Strategy 2.0</i>	<i>Intermediate Outcome - SIMR is Achieved</i>
GOVERNANCE & QUALITY STANDARDS	a Board of Education who has established Mission and Goals providing direction for all KSDE initiatives.	has effective and aligned leadership to provide direction for priorities and actions.	KSDE will align state level policies, organization and infrastructure to efficiently and effectively allocate resources and supports to increase state and district capacity to support sustained implementation of evidence-based practices for students with disabilities to perform at grade level.	through the district level implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment, the capacity of districts will be increased to effectively implement evidence-based practices in a sustainable way linked to achieving improved reading outcomes for students with disabilities.	the State-identified Measurable Result (SIMR), will increase the percentage of students with disabilities Grades K-5 who score at grade level end of year benchmark on a reading general outcome measure.
	a single Special Education and Title Services team.				
ACCOUNTABILITY & MONITORING	an ESEA Flexibility Waiver and submits reports regarding progress of Title I schools.	has an initial alignment of accountability processes and needs to focus on refining program and policy implementation alignment.			
	a process to annually submit the progress of students with disabilities in the KS SPP/APR including reading progress of students with disabilities in district cohorts.				
	a system of general supervision called Kansas Integrated Accountability System (KIAS) that includes monitoring, dispute resolution, compliance and fiscal at state and local level.				
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & PROFESSIONAL LEARNING	a commitment to provide multiple conferences annually and a variety of training cadres to support statewide need.	has a coordinated system to support technical assistance and professional learning but needs to scale up sustainable capacity to support implementation of evidence-based reading instructional practices.	KS TASN, specifically technical assistance and professional learning, will be coordinated, leveraged to reduce duplication, use evaluation results to inform decisions, and increase progress monitoring of student performance, and provide evidence-base resources for dissemination.		
	a system to support Title I Focus and Priority Schools through the Kansas Learning Network.				
	a commitment to refining a sustainable statewide MTSS supporting the academics and behavior and social needs for all students.				
	a commitment to funding the Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) that provides professional learning and technical assistance to schools and families in identified areas to improve outcomes for all students.	needs to leverage technical assistance and professional learning across accountability systems for building local capacity to implement & sustain evidence-based practices.			

Appendix B  
 Kansas SSIP Logic Model



Appendix C  
Kansas SSIP Evaluation Plan

<b>Kansas SSIP Evaluation Plan</b>		
Outcomes	Indicators	Measures
<b>Short-Term (Knowledge, Skills, and Collaboration)</b>		
1a. KSDE staff and TASN providers demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment.	KSDE Division of Learning Services staff and TASN providers accurately describe Kansas MTSS and Alignment and how their role supports a district implementation process.	HQPD observation TASN Training Evaluation Content/performance-based assessment
1b. KSDE staff and TASN providers collaborate to implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment.	KSDE staff and TASN providers jointly develop products, protocols, and guidance designed to support the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment.	Document review
2a. LEA educators demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment.	School leadership team members accurately describe Kansas MTSS and Alignment and demonstrate skills (e.g., focused conversations about data) that support implementation.	Content/performance-based assessment HQPD observation
2b. LEA educators collaborate to implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment.	Collaborative teams reflect on progress and track their implementation.	HQPD observation Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale Kansas MTSS and Alignment Collaborative Team Progress Planner
<b>Medium-Term (Installation of Evidence-Based Instructional Practices)</b>		
1c. KSDE and TASN leadership create the conditions that facilitate implementation.	KSDE and TASN products, protocols, and guidance support the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment.	TASN Coordination/Evaluation Feedback Survey TASN Training Evaluation HQPD observation Stakeholder involvement/feedback
1d. KSDE and TASN leadership make data-based decisions and share data through communication loops.	Decisions are grounded in data and shared effectively through KSDE and TASN structures.	Document review Observation at mid-year and TASN Leadership Team meetings Stakeholder involvement/feedback

2c. District and school administrators create the conditions that facilitate implementation.	District/school-developed products, protocols, and guidance support the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment.	Checklist for Implementation Readiness Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale
2d. District and school leadership teams and grade-level collaborative teams make data-based decisions and share data through communication loops.	Decisions are grounded in data and shared effectively through district structures.	Checklist for Implementation Readiness Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale Kansas MTSS and Alignment Collaborative Team Progress Planner
<b>Long-Term (Implementation of Evidence-Based Instructional Practices With Fidelity)</b>		
2e. An evidence-based reading curriculum is implemented with fidelity.	An evidence-based reading curriculum is implemented with fidelity.	Checklist for Implementation Readiness Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale Kansas MTSS and Alignment Collaborative Team Progress Planner
2f. Evidence-based interventions in reading are provided based on universal screening data and decision protocols.	Established decision protocols are followed and the effectiveness of interventions in reading is regularly monitored.	Checklist for Implementation Readiness Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale Kansas MTSS and Alignment Collaborative Team Progress Planner
2g. Families are engaged in the data-based decision making and progress monitoring processes for their children.	Families are collaborative partners with school staff in the data-based decision making that impacts their child.	Family Engagement Survey
<b>Impact (Student Outcomes)</b>		
2h. Students make progress in reading achievement.	Students improve their reading proficiency (i.e., accuracy, fluency, comprehension).	Grade-level CBM GOM universal screening Tier 2/3 progress monitoring
SIMR: 2i. Increased percentage of students with disabilities in grades K–5 score at grade level in reading as measured by CBM GOMs.	Students with disabilities in grades K–5 score at grade level in reading.	Grade-level CBM GOM universal screening

**Evaluation Measures:**

Below are descriptions of the Kansas SSIP evaluation measures. The measures are designed to continually improve implementation through self-correcting feedback. Ongoing coaching and professional learning support deeper implementation through data-based decision making.

**HQPD Observation:** The High-Quality Professional Development (HQPD) observation is completed by the TASN Evaluation Team at a representative sample of KSDE and TASN trainings, workshops, conferences, and institutes (approximately 50 events annually). The observation addresses adult learning principles, skill development, and transfer to practice indicators in the domains of Preparation, Introduction, Demonstration, Engagement, Evaluation/Reflection, and Mastery. A description of the training content or activity that met each of the 22 indicators is documented. Professional development providers receive feedback on each observed training, and coaching is provided to improve professional development practices. HQPD observations are completed across the year with the goal that every professional

learning topic and every trainer is observed at least once annually. The TASN Evaluation Team follows a standard scoring protocol and annually participates in an interrater reliability process to ensure consistent and accurate observation data.

**Content/Performance-Based Assessment:** Completed at professional learning events across the year, content-based assessments include pre/post multiple-choice tests and performance-based assessments. Additionally, these assessments for KSDE staff and TASN providers ask participants to describe how their role supports Kansas MTSS and Alignment district implementation process.

**TASN Training Evaluation:** Completed at professional learning events across the year, the training evaluation includes general satisfaction items and identification of support necessary from KSDE or the TASN provider to facilitate implementation. Additionally, the TASN Training Evaluation includes items aligned with the HQPD observation and adult learning principles (e.g., The trainer provided examples of the content/practice in use; During the training, I had opportunities to practice new skills).

**Document Review:** The document review provides data on the collaborative development and data-based decisions that result from collaborative efforts. The document review includes participation, meeting minutes, and products developed by the Division of Learning Services committees and state-level stakeholder groups (i.e., Kansas State Board of Education, Accreditation Advisory Council, ESEA Advisory Council, Special Education Advisory Council, and TASN Leadership Team and Provider Meetings). Decision points are analyzed to determine whether decisions were based on data, support the implementation of Kansas MTSS and Alignment, and were shared through communication loops. The review of approximately 100 documents occurs annually in July.

**Observation at Mid-Year and TASN Leadership Team Meetings:** Provider-specific progress monitoring and data-based decision making meetings are held annually with each TASN project (approximately 15 meetings). An observation protocol is completed at each of these meetings to document the inclusion of data-informed decisions. Additionally, quarterly, this protocol is utilized in the observation of TASN Leadership Team meetings to document data-informed decisions.

**Stakeholder Involvement/Feedback:** The KSDE strives to create conditions that support stakeholder involvement by discussing evaluation results with stakeholder groups and obtaining feedback to guide implementation and support continual improvement. The results of stakeholder feedback are monitored through the document review.

**TASN Coordination/Evaluation Feedback Survey:** Completed annually by TASN providers, this survey includes satisfaction items and open-ended items to identify the supports necessary to facilitate implementation and collaboration. The results of this survey are used to inform decisions as evidenced by the document review and observations at TASN Leadership Team meetings.

**Checklist for Implementation Readiness:** Completed by Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers, the Checklist for Implementation Readiness provides an ongoing record of Kansas MTSS and Alignment installation in each district/school (e.g., date when each required

component has been completed). The Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers determine the installation of MTSS core components through on-site observations, facilitated data-informed discussions and school/district documentation. If an MTSS core component is not developed to the Kansas MTSS and Alignment standard, the Checklist for Implementation Readiness documents why the school did not meet that threshold. It determines fidelity of installation and helps identify modifications to professional learning and coaching supports. The Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers follow a standard protocol for scoring, and the template automatically creates a summarized graph highlighting areas of strength and areas of continued structuring for each school.

**Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale:** Completed annually in winter, the Inclusive MTSS Implementation Scale is a self-report and stakeholder fidelity assessment of all instructional staff and administrators in each MTSS building and is aligned with the Checklist for Implementation Readiness and the Kansas MTSS and Alignment Collaborative Team Progress Planner. It determines individual and collaborative implementation, social validity, and teachers' perceptions of administrative support and districtwide implementation. Data are validated through the Checklist for Implementation Readiness. It supports school and district decision making as well as customized coaching.

**Kansas MTSS and Alignment Collaborative Team Progress Planner:** The Collaborative Team Progress Planner is completed twice per year by collaborative teams in a school to identify the implementation and effectiveness of universal, supplemental, and intensive supports and to strategize improvements. An automatically-generated summary is provided to the school leadership team to support collaborative teams, school, and district decision making, improvement planning, and customized coaching.

**Family Engagement Survey:** The Family Engagement Survey provides annual feedback from families on perceptions of engagement, which address each Kansas Family Engagement Standard, to inform school implementation and collaborative efforts.

**Tier 2/3 progress monitoring:** The performance of students receiving Tier 2 or 3 interventions is monitored on a weekly to monthly basis. Decision rules are followed to determine when a student exits the intervention. These data are reviewed by Collaborative Teams and summarized in the Kansas MTSS and Alignment Collaborative Team Progress Planner.

**CBM GOM Universal Screening Data in Reading:** Reading curriculum-based measure general outcome measure (CBM GOM) is a formative assessment used for screening conducted in fall, winter, and spring. These assessments are performance indicators that are predictive of overall performance in the area (IRIS Center, 2020). These include assessments such as DIBLES, AIMSweb, FastBridge and others. Student and grade-level composite data support customized coaching and collaborative team, school, and district decision making. These data are reviewed by District Leadership Teams, Building Leadership Teams, and Collaborative Teams and summarized in the Kansas MTSS and Alignment Collaborative Team Progress Planner.

Appendix D  
*Kansas SSIP Coherent Improvement Strategy Activity Timeline and Status*

<b>Kansas Coherent Improvement Strategy 1.0:</b> The current state level policies, organization and infrastructure will be strategically realigned to allocate and leverage SEA supports for increasing district capacity.		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.1. Redesign the Kansas TASN system of technical assistance and professional learning essential scopes of work.	FFY14	Completed
1.2. Realign the Kansas TASN priorities, operating principles, scopes of work and allocate resources to address emerging needs identified by stakeholders.	FFY14	Completed
1.3. Redesign Kansas TASN application process; establish new system priorities, common definitions, shared provider expectations and use new methods to monitor delivery of professional learning and technical assistance.	FFY14 FFY18	Completed & Ongoing
1.4. Facilitate communication, collaboration and resources across KSDE and TASN providers to support dissemination and implementation of evidenced-based instructional practices for educators, related service personnel, administrators, families and community-based settings.	FFY16-FFY20	Initiated & Ongoing
<b>Kansas Coherent Improvement Strategy 2.0:</b> Design, implement and evaluate a school improvement planning process built upon Kansas MTSS and Alignment to increase the district capacity to provide effective reading instruction for students with disabilities.		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
2.1. Establish and fund the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project charged with implementing a school improvement planning process built upon Kansas MTSS and Alignment constructs focusing on districts with demonstrated needs to improve reading outcomes for students with disabilities.	FFY15	Completed
2.2. Assess and refine materials to ensure effective and efficient training of district personnel in Kansas MTSS and Alignment.	FFY15 FFY20	Completed
2.3. Select, train and coach Kansas MTSS and Alignment State Trainers to increase the capacity of districts for providing sustainable Kansas MTSS and Alignment implementation across educational settings.	FFY15-FFY20	Completed & Ongoing
2.4. Implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment training system with a cohort of districts who have a demonstrated need to improve reading outcomes for students with disabilities and readiness to implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment.	FFY15-FFY20	Initiated & Ongoing
<b>Kansas Coherent Improvement Strategy 3.0:</b> Evaluate the degree to which the state infrastructure supports district implementation of evidence-based practices to improve reading results for students with disabilities kindergarten through 5th Grade.		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Status</b>
3.1. Assess and measure use of an ongoing feedback loop, ability to identify barriers, correct errors, system responsiveness, and effectiveness of collaboration within the SEA's infrastructure.	FFY15-FFY20	Initiated & Ongoing
3.2. Measure the extent to which the coherent improvement strategies are implemented.	FFY15-FFY20	Initiated & Ongoing
3.3. Establish principles for monitoring fidelity and performance informed by implementation science & IDEA Pt. D State Personnel Development Grant (KS SPDG) evaluation.	FFY15-FFY20	Completed & Ongoing
3.4. Utilize guided feedback from stakeholders to help determine implementation and sustained use of evidence-based reading practices over time.	FFY15-FFY20	Initiated & Ongoing

Appendix E  
Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition	Location/Source
<b>State Teams/Activities</b>		
Division of Learning Services	The Division of Learning Services oversees all federal and statewide education and services in the areas of: Teacher Licensure, Federal Title Programs, Career and Technical Education, and School Accreditation. In addition, the division oversees the state's curriculum standards; the state assessments; and research, data analysis, and reporting requirements. Staff ensures compliance with all state and federal education legislation including the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA).	<a href="http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services">http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services</a>
Special Education and Title Services team	The Special Education and Title Services team provides effective, evidence-based technical assistance to districts and schools across the state. The team supports all Kansas students, early childhood through secondary, in meeting or exceeding Kansas Standards. This includes the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of the monitoring process that ensures compliance with federal and state laws and administrative regulations, including the engagement of the student, families, and the community.	<a href="https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services">https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services</a>
Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) model	Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA), approved by the Kansas State Board of Education in June of 2016, employs a systems approach to school improvement, accrediting systems instead of schools. It requires systems (public school districts and accredited private schools) to engage in a transparent, data-based process of system-wide needs assessment, goal setting, implementation, and reflection. Relationships, Relevance, Responsive Culture, and Rigor are the four areas in which education systems assess overall and individual school performance. In the KESA model, each education system consults with an outside visitation team of experienced education professionals throughout the cycle, culminating in an official accreditation visit in Year 5, followed by the outside visitation team's recommendation of a rating.	<a href="http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation/K-12-Accreditation-Home/KESA">http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation/K-12-Accreditation-Home/KESA</a>
Kansas State Board of Education	The Mission of the Kansas State Board of Education is to prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training, and character development according to each student's gifts and talents. The Kansas State Board of Education consists of 10 elected members, each representing a district comprised of four contiguous senatorial districts. Board members serve four-year terms with an overlapping schedule. Every other year, the Board reorganizes to elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson. It also appoints a Commissioner of Education who serves as its executive director.	<a href="http://www.ksde.org/Board">http://www.ksde.org/Board</a>
Kansas State Board of Education Vision and Outcomes	The Vision of the Kansas State Board of Education is that Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. This is referred to as the Kansans Can Vision. Five outcomes are used to measure progress: social-emotional growth, kindergarten readiness, individual plans of study, high school graduation, and postsecondary success.	<a href="https://www.ksde.org/Board/Kansas-State-Board-of-Education/Board-Goals-and-Outcomes">https://www.ksde.org/Board/Kansas-State-Board-of-Education/Board-Goals-and-Outcomes</a>

Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)	The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is a dynamic, dedicated service agency that provides leadership, resources, support, and accountability to the state’s pre-K through 12 education system. KSDE administers the state’s governance of education, standards and assessments, special education services, child nutrition and wellness, title programs and services, career and technical education, and financial aid. It is the goal of the agency to provide all Kansas children with equal access to a quality, high-level education that promotes student achievement and prepares all students for global success. The department is governed by the Kansas State Board of Education, but the day-to-day administration of the agency is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Education, who is appointed by the Board.	<a href="http://www.ksde.org/Home/Quick-Links/About-Us">http://www.ksde.org/Home/Quick-Links/About-Us</a>
KSDE Kansans Can School Redesign project	In support of Kansas’ vision for education, the KSDE Kansans Can School Redesign project supports schools to be redesigned around the five outcomes established by the Kansas State Board of Education, the five elements identified as defining a successful Kansas high school graduate, and what Kansans said they want their schools to look like in the future.	<a href="https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can/School-Redesign">https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Fiscal-and-Administrative-Services/Communications-and-Recognition-Programs/Vision-Kansans-Can/School-Redesign</a>
KESA Advisory Council or KSDE Accreditation Advisory Council	The Accreditation Advisory Council reviews and provides input to KSDE staff concerning systems accreditation documents and procedures. It advises KSDE staff of field needs, concerns, and issues; acts as K-12 accreditation advocates in the field and as liaisons to other groups; and provides advice and counsel to the Kansas State Board of Education on issues of policy, such as regulations, corrective action plans, sanctions, and levels of accreditation. The council is made up of 30 voting and eight non-voting members who are selected from a pool of eligible applicants. The voting members consists of the Kansas Commissioner of Education and two each from the following groups: superintendents; central office staff; high school administrators; middle school administrators; elementary school administrators; high school, middle school, and elementary school certified staff; and business and industry representatives. In addition, one voting member is selected from each of the following groups: classified staff, special purpose schools, private/religious schools, parents, LEA Boards of Education, special education, higher education professors, higher education administrators, equity and diversity in education representatives, technology in education representatives, and postsecondary vocational/technical representatives.	<a href="http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation/K-12-Accreditation-Home/Quality-Performance-Accreditation-QPA/QPA-Advisory-Council">http://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation/K-12-Accreditation-Home/Quality-Performance-Accreditation-QPA/QPA-Advisory-Council</a>
KSDE Data Quality Assurance	The KSDE Data Quality Assurance policy includes training and data certification of district staff. The Data quality certification program provides specialized tracks for data entry personnel, data coordinators, program staff, and administrators. These tracks include instruction on general data quality practices and techniques, as well as intensive role-based training with the KSDE web-based applications.	<a href="http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SE S/KIAS/spp/APR14-ks-2014b.pdf">http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SE S/KIAS/spp/APR14-ks-2014b.pdf</a>
Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)	The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) provides policy guidance to the State Board of Education with respect to special education and related services for students with disabilities. The SEAC meets as mandated by both the State and Federal Legislation. SEAC membership is made up of stakeholders throughout the state with the majority being individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. The State Board of Education makes the appointments to vacated positions on the SEAC during the month of June each year.	<a href="https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education/Special-Education-Advisory-Council">https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education/Special-Education-Advisory-Council</a>

**TASN and LEA Teams**

<p>Building Leadership Team</p>	<p>The Building Leadership Team leads building-level school improvement, including facilitating a needs assessment, establishing goals, developing an action plan for each goal, guiding the implementation of the action plans focused on successful outcomes for all learners, analyzing the effectiveness of implementation, ensuring continual improvement and sustainability of the system, and developing the instructional capacity of the staff to lead the change process.</p>	<p><a href="https://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1036/BuildingLeadershipTeam_Considerations.pdf">https://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1036/BuildingLeadershipTeam_Considerations.pdf</a></p>
<p>District Leadership Team</p>	<p>The District Leadership Team leads district-level system improvement by overseeing and approving building-level work, facilitating a system-wide needs assessment, establishing district goals, developing an action plan for each goal, guiding the implementation of the action plans focusing on successful outcomes for all learners, analyzing the effectiveness of implementation, ensuring continual districtwide improvement and sustainability of the system, and developing the instructional capacity of the staff to lead the change process.</p>	<p><a href="https://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1037/DistrictLeadershipTeam_Considerations.pdf">https://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1037/DistrictLeadershipTeam_Considerations.pdf</a></p>
<p>Kansas Learning Network</p>	<p>The Kansas Learning Network is dedicated to supporting schools in implementing effective practices resulting in successful outcomes for all learners by providing technical assistance for eligible ESEA Comprehensive Support and Improvement schools and districts through sustained coaching in a rigorous and collaborative systems change process. Kansas Learning Network coaches work closely with school leadership teams to complete a comprehensive needs assessment focusing on root causes, data analysis, risk factors, and expansion of successful elements of the school system. Schools and districts then develop and carry out action plans to modify their infrastructure to improve outcomes for all learners.</p>	<p><a href="https://ksdetasn.org/kln">https://ksdetasn.org/kln</a>  <a href="http://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1980/2017-18_KLN_Evaluation_Brief.pdf">http://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1980/2017-18_KLN_Evaluation_Brief.pdf</a></p>
<p>Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) and Alignment</p>	<p>Kansas MTSS and Alignment is a pre-kindergarten through college and career ready districtwide approach for school districts across Kansas to improve academic achievement, positive behavior, and strong social skills for every student. Kansas MTSS and Alignment is a coherent continuum of evidence-based, system-wide practices to support a rapid response to academic and behavioral needs, with frequent data-based monitoring for instructional decision making to empower each Kansas student to achieve high standards.</p>	<p><a href="https://ksdetasn.org/mtss/overview">https://ksdetasn.org/mtss/overview</a></p>
<p>Kansas Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) and Alignment Training System</p>	<p>Since 2009, the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project has provided multi-phase training and ongoing support for districts (including pre-K through high school) to implement Kansas MTSS and Alignment. The project aligns trainings with the needs of schools in Kansas and the team strives to make sure their work enhances district capacity to meet multiple demands in the areas of assessment, reporting, and the requirements within the accreditation process in Kansas. By working closely with departments providing policy and guidance in these areas, the Kansas MTSS and Alignment project assists districts in streamlining data collection and utilizing data to make informed decisions regarding student needs. Kansas MTSS and Alignment is an overarching framework that guides schools through a process of needs assessment and decision making that assists in not only selecting effective practices, but also creating a sustainable, aligned structure.</p>	<p><a href="https://ksdetasn.org/mtss/overview">https://ksdetasn.org/mtss/overview</a>  <a href="https://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1886/2017-18_Kansas_MTSS_Evaluation_Brief.pdf">https://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1886/2017-18_Kansas_MTSS_Evaluation_Brief.pdf</a></p>

<p>Kansas IDEA Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC)</p>	<p>The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) promotes meaningful family engagement at all levels of education and provides information and resources to help parents, educators, and other organizations promote the educational success of each Kansas child. KPIRC supports Kansas schools by developing resources to promote family-school-community partnerships, offering professional learning to educators and families, and providing technical assistance on the development of family-friendly policies and programs, networking with community organizations to support family engagement in education and supporting early learning programs to promote school readiness.</p>	<p><a href="https://ksdetasn.org/kpirc/kansas-parent-information-resource-center">https://ksdetasn.org/kpirc/kansas-parent-information-resource-center</a></p> <p><a href="http://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1894/2017-18_KPIRC_Evaluation_Brief.pdf">http://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1894/2017-18_KPIRC_Evaluation_Brief.pdf</a></p>
<p>Kansas Parent Training and Information Center (Kansas PTI)</p>	<p>The Kansas Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) assists families whose children have disabilities to be partners in their child’s services and education. Families Together, Inc. has been the PTI Center for Kansas since 1986. As the PTI, Families Together is able to serve families of any child with a disability who receives early intervention or special education services in the state. Their training and support for families is centered on helping families to become true partners with their child’s team to create a set of services to provide the child or youth with a free appropriate public education.</p>	<p><a href="https://familiesstogetherinc.org/about-us/">https://familiesstogetherinc.org/about-us/</a></p>
<p>TASN Coordination project/team</p>	<p>The TASN Coordination project collaborates with the KSDE Special Education and Title Services leadership to enact and maintain the vision of the Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) and to provide oversight and monitoring of the overall TASN. It assists the Special Education and Title Services leadership in ensuring a consistency of vision, message, and technical assistance from all TASN providers, consistently focused on increasing the capacity of educators to implement evidence-based practices.</p>	<p><a href="https://ksdetasn.org/tasn">https://ksdetasn.org/tasn</a></p> <p><a href="http://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1978/2017-18_Coordination_Evaluation_Brief.pdf">http://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1978/2017-18_Coordination_Evaluation_Brief.pdf</a></p>
<p>TASN Evaluation project/team</p>	<p>The TASN Evaluation project assists the entire TASN system in designing and implementing an evaluation system that focuses on measuring the effectiveness, implementation, and sustainability of efforts. This ensures that the supports and services accessed by educators via TASN are effective and have a positive impact on staff behavior and student outcomes. The evaluation of TASN contributes to the continuous improvement of TASN professional development by creating data-informed, self-correcting feedback loops. To this end, the TASN evaluation is an ongoing, collaborative process that enhances the expertise of KSDE and TASN providers and builds the data analysis competence of teachers, administrators, and coaches who are charged with implementing evidence-based instructional practices.</p>	<p><a href="https://ksdetasn.org/evaluation">https://ksdetasn.org/evaluation</a></p> <p><a href="http://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1979/2017-18_Evaluation_Evaluation_Brief.pdf">http://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1979/2017-18_Evaluation_Evaluation_Brief.pdf</a></p>
<p>Technical Assistance System Network (TASN)</p>	<p>The Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) is the system that KSDE uses to increase capacity of districts to implement and sustain evidence-based practices. Through collaboration with numerous professional development providers, the TASN system delivers training, coaching, and technical assistance in effective practices addressing instruction in academics, behavior, social-emotional learning, and family engagement across the state. TASN includes the projects that facilitate Kansas MTSS and Alignment, Comprehensive Support and Improvement, and family engagement specifically discussed in this report.</p>	<p><a href="https://www.ksdetasn.org/tasn/about-tasn">https://www.ksdetasn.org/tasn/about-tasn</a></p> <p><a href="https://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1887/2017-18_TASN_Evaluation_Brief.pdf">https://ksdetasn.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/resource/upload/1887/2017-18_TASN_Evaluation_Brief.pdf</a></p>