

## Mississippi 07-08 Focused Monitoring Team Member Training September 11 - 12, 2007

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## New IDEA Says....

“The primary focus of Federal and  
State monitoring activities shall be on  
improving educational results and  
functional outcomes for all children  
with disabilities.....”

## Monitoring: A Graphic

Compliance Requirements  
Child Find LRE IEP Educational  
implementation Benefit

Low

Small Samples using checklists, few  
interviews, etc.

Degree of  
Investi-  
gation

Typical SEA On-Site  
Monitoring Model  
criticized by  
advocates & OSEP

High

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**GOTCHA!**



(New) Compliance

Compliance

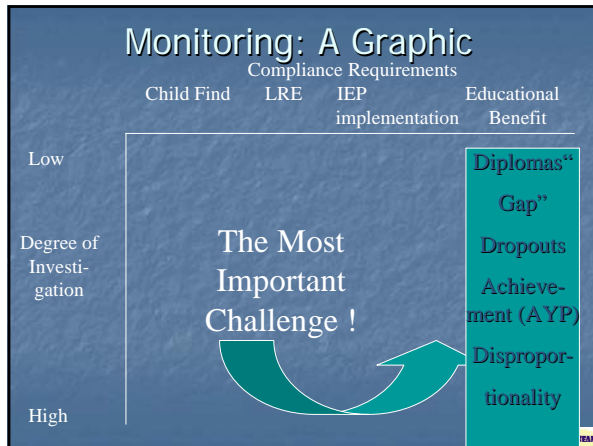
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(FAPE) Educational Processes

+

Educational Benefit (results)

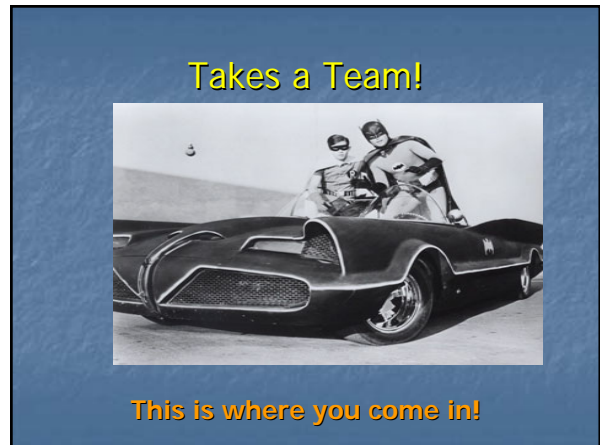
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### What is Focused Monitoring (FM)?

"A process that purposefully selects priority areas to examine for compliance/results while not specifically examining other areas for compliance to maximize resources, emphasize important variables, and increase the probability of improved results."

- ### What Focused Monitoring Is NOT!
- designed in isolation
  - an investigation of all IDEA regulations
  - cyclical
  - only about the on-site visit



- ### What have we Learned?
- Requires strong leadership at the SEA
  - It really is systems change (changing a culture)
  - When it comes to findings, fewer is better – Go for the big ticket-items!
  - Training is essential
  - It is more about general education than special education
  - Evaluation is critical to continuous improvement

### Focused Monitoring In MISSISSIPPI

## Mississippi Focused Monitoring Areas

- ✓ SLD
- ✓ LRE

For today we are “focusing” on SLD!

## What Does “SLD” Mean as a Priority Area?

Goal 5.

Mississippi will ensure that districts must have a differential of 1.85 or less in the proportion of Black students from the proportion of other race students identified as specific learning disabilities.

## Selection Criteria

- Rank all 152 districts to determine which districts are farthest from the differential of 1.85

AND

- In the case of districts that have 95% one race, the MDE looks at their rate of identification for SLD

## Let's Look at the On-site Procedures

## MS Focused Monitoring Teams

Include:

- Team Leader
- LEA Peers (from another district)
- MDE (OSE) staff
- Contractual personnel
- Mattie T. Consultants/Plaintiffs Attorney (Observers only)

## Role of the Team Leader

To:

- participate in all training sessions
- analyze pre visit data and develop initial hypotheses;
- verify district self review
- conduct the team in a visit of 2 days
- gather all evidence (completed protocols) and facilitate the team findings;

## Role of the Team Leader<sup>(2)</sup>

To:

- maintain team focus through daily data analysis and hypotheses development;
- submit draft report with evidence of findings to the MDE (10 days); and
- collect critical information to refine the process.

## Qualifications of Peer Members

- Special educator (assessment)
- Good organizational skills
- Knowledge of IDEA and MDE policies
- Ability to analyze IEPs and programs
- Ability to effectively communicate
- Available (participate/travel)
- Complete training

## Role of LEA Peer Members

to participate in:

- All day training sessions;
- A visit of 2 days;
- Complete record reviews (minimum of 20 in large districts)
- make the commitment to the team process; and
- Collect critical information to refine the process.

## Role of Selected District

- Assist with data collection;
- Ensure the teams have the material and data requested;
- Provide requested technical assistance to team leaders in during the monitoring visit;
- Gain information leading to the refinement of the monitoring process.

## What Must Districts do to "Get off the Hook?"

SLD

Must demonstrate required evidence of correction

**AND**

Provide data indicating progress towards the 1.85 target!

## Sample Two Day Schedule

### Day 1

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 8:00 AM | District "introduction" meeting                          |
|         | Team leader district self review verification/interviews |
|         | Team members review records                              |
| 3:30 PM | Team members write up findings                           |
| 4:30 PM | Team meeting to staff findings                           |

### Day 2

- |         |                                      |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM | Team leader doing interviews         |
|         | Team members review records          |
| 3:30 AM | Team members write up findings       |
| 4:30 PM | Staff day's findings & plan to Close |
|         | Team leader exit meeting (timelines) |

## Onsite Activities

- Focuses on areas specific to the goal/indicator
- Hypotheses testing and data analysis
- Triangulation, corroboration
- Write the report WHILE on-site!
- Teaming is essential

## Some Methods for Collecting On-Site Data

- ✓ Interviews
- ✓ Record reviews (not just student)
- ✓ Observations

## Who Will Be Interviewed During The Visits?

- Service providers/teachers
- Administrators
- Others

Note: more time is spent in general education than special education



## Most Important!

- Take copius, detailed, clear notes during record review and on summary sheet
- Complete the summary sheet prior to the team meeting at the end of the day
- Be prepared for the team meeting
- Stay on task throughout the day
- Submit all raw data to the team leader

## The tricks are.....

- Stay focused
- Stay organized



Questions?

Reflections?

Past Experiences?