Measure 1 Case Study, Pilot

Minnesota State University, Mankato has identified the Special Education, Academic and Behavioral Strategist program as the first group of completers to participate in a Measure 1 Case Study.

Research Design
Participants: Ten first year completers (Special Education Teachers, Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical License)

Setting: Completer classrooms

Measures:
- Observational Protocol
- Completer Lesson Plans
- Student Curriculum Based-Measurement (e.g., Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills; DIBELS),
- Student Work Samples
- Completer interviews
- P-12 learner interviews

Procedures:
At the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic year, completers will assess P-12 learners to obtain an accurate current level of achievement. They will then calculate goals for their learners based on the data and determine the interventions needed. Completers will also use base-line data to plan specialized instruction appropriate to meet their learners' needs.

Completers will submit lesson plans to the Principal Investigator (PI) prior to observations of instructional practice. The PI will use the lesson plan submissions to align instruction to evidence-based practice, to identify the appropriateness of the intervention, and to affirm the structure of the lesson plan follows explicit instruction routines, as well as other High-Leverage Practices for special education as identified by the Council for Exceptional Children.

The PI will observe completers delivering instruction at three points during each semester of the 2022-2023 school year. Instruction will be measured with the same protocol used during their preparation program to measure completer growth over time. The observations will also assess the alignment of the instruction to the lesson plan, the ability to implement classroom management routines and procedures, and to monitor student engagement (as measured by the number of opportunities to respond offered to students).

Completers will continue to assess and progress monitor learners' growth toward the pre-determined academic goal. Graphs of progress will be collected as evidence of learner growth and completer impact. Completers will also use the graphs to conduct visual analysis of learner progress to determine if interventions and/or instruction needs to be adjusted (i.e., intensification of time, pace, practice opportunity) or if another evidence-based intervention should be introduced.

Learner progress monitoring graphs and student work samples will be collected as a measure of student academic growth and completer impact. The PI will conduct learner interviews toward the end of the year to measure learner perspective of completer impact. The PI will also conduct focus group interviews with the ten completers to assess readiness levels and EPP impact on their knowledge and skills. Completer perspective as well as instructional measures collected will inform program improvement efforts.