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The problem...

- The “Age of Information Technology”
- Responding to change
- The internet
- Timely and responsive staff development
- NCLB
- Need for expertise

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Needs...

- Disseminate information
- Timely response
- Build capacity / new knowledge
- Energize
- Making connections
- Utilize local expertise

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What is a Community of Practice and expectations for participation...

- “A Community of Practice” makes connections from person to person for mutual inquiry and learning about a practice or issue. Everyone’s voice is needed. Participants develop a shared identity and share a repertoire of knowledge and experiences (Wenger, 2003). Stakeholders from various parts of the system come together to...

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CoP participants...

- Exchange information
- Share experiences
- Improve the status quo
- Bring a range of experiences
- Attempt to integrate research, policy, and practice
- Move from knowing to doing
- Reflect with each other

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Expectations..for doers by doers...no lookie-looers ☺

- Come prepared
- Be willing to share and participate
- Be willing to change practices...
- Action Planning

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Year 1...Meeting 1

- Establish common understanding
 - Read chapters 4 & 5 from NASDSE RtI book (Core Principles and Essential Components)
 - 21 Activity
 - Identified the group's #1 priority: "Operationalizing the theories of RtI"

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Year 1...Meeting 2

- Continue to develop common understanding
 - Read chapters 5 & 7 from NASDSE RtI book (Essential Components and Policy Considerations)
 - Facilitated discussion related to the role of the school psychologist at each Tier.

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Year 1...Meeting 3

- Continue to develop common understanding
 - Critical Consumer activity
 - Broke into small groups and reviewed various definitions of RtI
 - Key issues relevant to implementation and the role of the school psychologist from each publication were identified for further study

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Year 2...Meeting 1

- Re-establish connections
- Welcome new members
- Review of previous year
- Establish purpose for upcoming year
 - Why a Community of Practice
 - Expectations for participation
- Establish common beliefs and agreements about RtI
- Action Plan

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Year 2...Meeting 2

- Continue developing common understanding
- Reviewed proposed Kansas Regulations
- Shared current practices

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Year 2...Meeting 3

- Continued to review draft regulations as well as IDEIA 2004
- Special Guest...Dan Reschly, Ph.D.

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Year 2...Meeting 4

- Book review
 - Learning Disabilities: From Identification to Intervention (Fletcher, J.M., Lyon, G. R., Fuchs, L.S., Barnes, M. A.)

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What A CoP Member Shared

- "My participation in the Principals' Community of Practice provided me with the time to collaborate with my peers. The resources provided at the sessions gave me new insights into helping my building implement MTSS. Sharing ideas and working together also helped me to maintain focus and enthusiasm for what I was trying to accomplish. The support given by the group makes it safe and easy to try new things."

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Items To Consider As You Form A Community Of Practice

- To have a facilitator or not, that is the question.
- If a facilitator is needed, who might that be?
- To focus on a single topic or to have each member add to the agenda?
- Resources needed? (books, video clips, articles, etc.)
- How to get everyone together. Who should be included.

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Possible Template

- *Sharing (20 minutes)* – Each person shares what is happening in their building. Share handouts and resources.
- *Reflection (20 minutes)* – What are you thinking about ____? How are you using ____? What did you find the most important/interesting in what was discussed last time? Any thoughts or sharing what is working well in your building?
- *Reading / Viewing (10 minutes)* – Read or view, taking 2 column notes ("What I'd Like To Try in My Building / What Might Keep Me From Making The Change")
- *Group Discussion (30 minutes)* – What would you like to try with ____? How are you using ____? How will ____ change ____? Sharing of resources and ideas.
- *Putting Into Practice / Preparing For Next Meeting (10 minutes)* – What is your goal / plan? What might you try? What do we want to share/discuss next week? Next steps? When and where will we meet?

Forming CoP's

- Time to form our own (by region, topics of interest, jobs, etc.)
- How to set up forum to meet (web cams, blogs, meeting location, etc.)
- What tools are needed?
