

Implementing a Multi-Tiered System of Support from Infancy to Graduation

In Vermont, training and technical assistance for implementing the Pyramid Model for Promoting the Social and Emotional Competence of Infants and Young Children in early childhood education programs as an Early Multi-Tiered System of Support (EMTSS) has been available for the last 15 years. In 2022, Vermont received a State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) from the Office of Special Education Programs at the U. S. Department of Education that was used to address goals related to improving academic student outcomes in Part B special education programs and to expand Vermont's EMTSS to include children served in Part C early intervention services.

The expansion of the Pyramid Model to early intervention, is being used to help address Vermont's State Systemic Improvement Plan for Part C early intervention services that is focused on the following State-Identified Measurable Result (SiMR):

Families are able to help their infants and toddlers develop functional social and emotional skills (Indicator 4C), so that Infants and toddlers substantially improve their functional social and emotional development (Indicator 3A Summary Statement 1).

Vermont's Part C Early Intervention (EI) services are known as CIS Early Intervention services and those services are provided by 11 regional non-profit,

community-based organizations. CIS Early Intervention services to children receiving Part C special education services receive their services in the natural environments of the family which may be the child's home or a community-based program or setting.

The CIS State Team initiated this work by building the state infrastructure for implementation and sustainability and the design of professional development strategies to build the capacity of early intervention providers in the use of evidence-based practices. The state implementation infrastructure included development of a state leadership team, collaboration with partners, securing a vendor to provide program implementation coaches, and identifying regional CIS-EI interested in program implementation. CIS-EI Cohorts from across the state receive training and technical assistance to develop leadership teams, use tools for implementation and intervention fidelity to inform their practice, develop goals, offer training to their early intervention providers, and support practice implementation through practitioner coaching. An important component of this effort was the development of training modules in the Pyramid Model practices that are available for all early intervention providers.

Read Vermont's [February 2024 CIS PD Newsletter](#) highlighting Early MTSS in Part C.

For additional resources and information related to the state implementation of the Pyramid Model as an Multi-Tiered System of Support for promoting social, emotional, and behavioral skills, please visit challengingbehavior.org.