

# VOL. 2 | MAY 2021

# IN THE LOOP

with  
the  
excellence  
group LLC

Updates for Mississippi Schools



- To prepare for the FY22 IDEA Funding Application, districts can post RFP's and secure MOUs and contracts. Private School Consultation and Parental Involvement Public Comment Procedures can be completed.
- Using the calendar year guidance from MDE, districts can plan for the transition next year. By surveying teachers regarding potential questions and barriers, you can ensure training will meet teacher needs.

## SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING - A KEY to turning LEARNING LOSS into LEARNING LEAPS NEXT STEPS

Utilize **MDE adopted CASEL** framework  
for 5 core competencies:

**SELF AWARENESS**  
**SELF-MANAGEMENT**  
**SOCIAL AWARENESS**  
**RELATIONSHIP SKILLS**  
**RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKING**

Provide assistance to establish an  
organized and efficient **SEL** program  
Provide an environment in which  
learning can occur

Assist in implementing  
**SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES** such as:  
Screening students for SEL  
Pairing students with a teacher mentor  
5-10 minute daily activities using an SEL  
curriculum

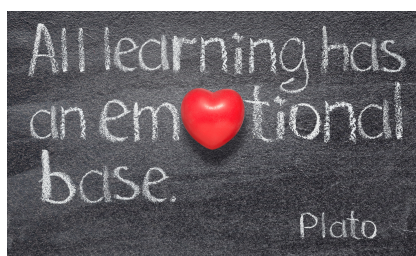
Enhance the **MTSS** behavior program by  
providing Tier 1 documentation and  
strategies for Tier 2 and Tier 3

## In This Issue

- SEL - A Key part of Turning Learning Loss into Learning Leaps
- All Things SPED reminders
- Talking to Children About Violence
- Interventionist training CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
- Important Reminders and Deadlines
- Learning Leaps after COVID
- Congratulations from the Excellence Group to new and retiring superintendents

## Important Reminders and Deadlines

- MAY 28 - SPED upload equitable child reimbursements from March 20 - May 20
- MAY 30 - Complete K-3 Screener Requirements and upload EOY universal screener data
- MAY 31 - Districts must have next school year calendar entered in MSIS
- JUNE 14 - SPED IDEA request for funds entered in MCAPS
- JUNE 18- Deadline to administer the Technology and Learning needs assessment with Brightbytes
- JUNE 30 - MSIS year end student transfers, graduation option information entered
- JUNE 30 - Any revisions to board policies for grading and promotion/retention should be approved and in place



# Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Educators



by Dr. Lisa Lucius

Our children are now dealing with confusing and frightening things in the news. How can we help:

- **Reassure children that they are safe:** emphasize the safety of school, validate their feelings, let them talk about them and express themselves
- **Make Time to Talk:** Let their questions be the guide, be patient, watch for clues that they need to talk,
- **Keep explanations developmentally appropriate:**
  - **ELEM** - provide brief, simple information with reassurance
  - **Upper ELEM/early Middle-** help separate reality from fantasy
  - **Upper Middle/High students-** emphasize how they can help by following safety guidelines
- **Review Safety Procedures-** including school and home
- **Observe Children's Emotional State:** Watch for changes in behavior
- **Limit Television Viewing of Events:** Be mindful of conversations they might overhear as well
- **Maintain a Normal Routine:** Keeping to a regular schedule can be reassuring

@2016, National Board of School Psychologists, 4340 East West Highway, Suite 402, Bethesda, MD 20184, 301-657-0270, [www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org)



The Excellence Group is proud to partner with LearnSafe. LearnSafe at your school means school administrators will have actionable data that addresses at-risk behavior on school computers, be able to protect vulnerable students, and ensure a culture of digital responsibility. LearnSafe can provide information critical to your **SEL** program!



Dr. Cindy Morgan



Dr. Mina Bryan-Lightsey



Mr. Eddie Prather



Mr. Arthur McMillan



Mr. Jim Young



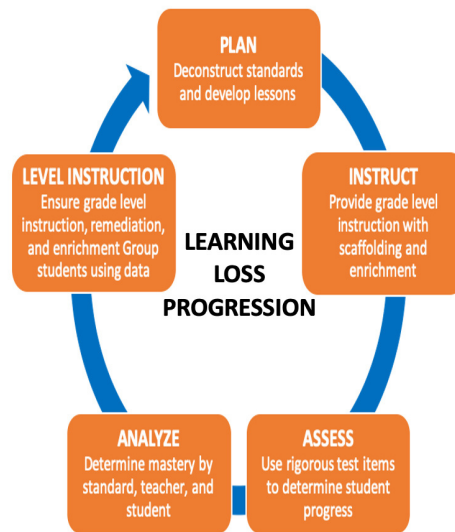
**Interventionist Training can MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

by Mr. Eddie Prather

## Are your Interventionists Prepared? They need:

- Classroom management and organizational skills
- Data analysis skills
- Knowledge of team work and PLC's
- Communication skills
- Knowledge of PROVEN instructional strategies
- Knowledge of MS-CCRS standards

**BEGIN TODAY** assisting interventionists with being ready for the 2021-2022 school year so they can help you take learning **LOSS** to Learning **LEAPS**



## Learning Leaps After COVID

Focused instruction to bridge the gap, delivered through intensive remediation in a **SUMMER SCHOOL OR SPECIAL SCHEDULING OPTION**

format is needed now more than ever before.

## Strategies that WORK:

- High dosage tutoring directly tied to ELA and Math Content
- Extended Learning Time including weeklong acceleration academies staffed with highly effective teachers
- Double doses of Math and/or ELA
- Strong Systems to monitor early warning signs paired with strong norms and routines to help students recover emotionally and engage academically

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Offers **CONGRATULATIONS** to ALL MS educators on completion of the 2020-2021 school year.  
Undeniably the most difficult year any of us have faced.  
A round of applause for consistently and successfully rising to every challenge!

## **CONGRATULATIONS** are also extended to:

*Mr. Brandon Quinn* - Appointed superintendent of Alcorn County School District  
*Mr. Mitchell King* - Appointed superintendent of Harrison County School District  
*Dr. Debra Powell* - Named superintendent of Holmes County Consolidated School District  
*Dr. Andy Schoggin* - Named superintendent of Clinton School District  
*Mr. Dexter Green* - Appointed superintendent of Coffeeville School District  
*Dr. Talia Lock* - Named superintendent of Long Beach School District  
*Dr. Jay Smith* - Named superintendent of North Pike School District  
*Mr. Bradley Roberson* - Named superintendent of Oxford School District  
*Dr. Frederick Robinson* - Named superintendent of Quitman County School District  
*Dr. Toriano Holloway* - named superintendent of Simpson County School District



**We also offer our thanks and appreciation for a job well done to those that are retiring this year:**

*Dr. Tim Martin* - Clinton Public School District  
*Mr. Alan Dedeaux* - Hancock County School District  
*Mr. Roy Gill* - Harrison County School District  
*Dr. Adam Pugh* - Lafayette County School District  
*Mr. Dennis Penton* - North Pike School District  
*Mr. Brian Harvey* - Oxford School District  
*Dr. Evelyn Jossell* - Quitman County School District  
*Mr. Greg Paes* - Simpson County School District  
*Mr. Warren Woodrow* - West Jasper Consolidated School District

