

Fall 2007 SIG Regional Meeting Evaluation Summary

1. What is your predominant role for the SIG/SPDG(s)?

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
SIG/SPDG Project Staff	54.55%	30
Evaluator	30.91%	17
Other (please specify) PTI Director, State Director, TA, Personnel Consultant, PBIS Coordinator, RRC Support, 2 Project Officers	14.55%	8
answered question		55
skipped question		0
Overall Response Rate 52 responses/116participants		45%

2. What regional meeting did you attend?

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
Albuquerque, New Mexico	25.45%	14
Kansas City, Missouri	32.73%	18
Bethesda, Maryland	41.82%	23
answered question		55
skipped question		0

3. Please rate the degree to which you agree with the following statements (6-point scale, 1 - low, 6 - high)

answer options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Rating Average	Response Count	Percent
The meeting met my expectations for project sharing (1-6)	0	0	0	2	21	31	5.54	54	92%
Ideas gathered from other projects will be useful to my work (1-6)	0	0	0	6	15	32	5.49	53	92%
Overall, my time was well spent (1-6)	0	0	1	1	14	38	5.65	54	94%
answered question								54	
skipped question								1	

What did you find most useful about the meeting?	How do you plan on using the information gained from the meeting?
50 Responses	50 Responses
evaluator meeting	no sure yet
It was all great, but the 2nd day evaluator only meeting was a real and practical experience to be able to sit in a room (with a wonderful view) and talk about issues/concerns/sharing/etc.	It was a wealth of knowledge and resources which will guide the evaluation of our project.
Sharing activities	It will help as I collaborate with the NMPED and work with the IDEA advisory
The small group factor allowed me really meet and connect with other state coordinators/directors. I liked that there was a regional feel to the meetings because many of the states represented have similar populations and geographical issues to manage re: technical assistance, etc...	I will need to go back through the materials gathered at the end of Day 2 and then most likely call the states for more information.
Meeting some of the newer staff on the various projects.	The evaluation information from California will be really helpful.
Networking and sharing.	To refine our evaluation plan and provide better guidance to the LEA on implementation.
The topical discussions using the four questions as a framework.	share at our SPDG stakeholder meetings. Use information to refine action plans based on what other states have learned.
<p>A. Marketplace. Now I just have to find the time to process all the great ideas and products I was sampled with! :)</p> <p>B. Connecting/networking with other SPDG Project Director's and hearing what their grant focus is.</p>	I will share with SPDG Project Staff and other WDE colleagues. I got a lot of good stuff. It was overwhelming! I made a lot of good contacts with other SPDG folks, too!
Time spent with other evaluators and general information provided by Larry.	The materials shared and information provided will help us as we continue to design/revise evaluation instruments and processes.
The evaluator discussion.	I will use the ideas for reporting out on data.
sharing with other states - it is nice to know we are all working on how to improve student outcomes, but in different ways - finding out what others are doing helps expand our possibilities.	sharing the information with the team in our state agency that will be implementing the grant
It was very useful to discuss SIG/SPDG initiatives within the context of Rtl implementation. The Internet connection was a big help for the "Marketplace" sharing. Also, the agenda had just enough structure, but not too much to allow for the flexible flow of discussion.	Further exploration of specific resources on web sites and sharing of ideas, strategies, and information for potential use and/or adaptation as states implement and evaluate project initiatives.
Networking and talking with others from different states.	Follow-up and potential integration of ideas into our current activities.

What did you find most useful about the meeting?	How do you plan on using the information gained from the meeting?
The time to share ideas and the ability to ask questions and have open discussion.	We plan to implement some of the strategies/projects from other states in our state.
The sharing from each state-the small group enabled more informal discussion and up close Q& A that are sometimes not possible in a big group!	Sharing w/DOE staff and to incorporate into current SPDG work
Extended opportunity to talk and hear from others	Very helpful ideas from the evaluation discussion--good material sharing!
The small group and the opportunities for networking. Definitely the sharing of ideas.	I plan to share with others in my Division/Department and incorporate into SIG and SPP/APR planning and implementation.
Meeting everyone; I now have many people that I can contact if I have questions or would like to know how something is working in other states.	I will go to the websites that were provided by other states to learn more about their process, and possibly adapt some of their forms.
The sharing of information regarding SIG/SPDG activities and products. Just the opportunity to share was very rewarding.	We are meeting today to fine tune some specific activities and products.
Sharing with just the other evaluators.	Comparing to my materials to get new ideas for refining instruments and program design.
The sharing time we had together in the Marketplace. It was so valuable.	There are many ideas which were shared that can be put into use right away or even transferred to another context. It was very helpful to see what other states are doing, how they are doing it, and being able to learn from their experiences.
Information obtain from the presenters and Mr. Wexler.	By sharing this information with other project staff and the director of the project.
Small group so it left time to ask questions, people provide information on what they did to address the same issues, and could follow up for additional information.	I plan to follow up with some of the people to get additional information to try to replicate some of the items in my area.
Alabama's recruitment study and Michigan's new project manager role. Also, discussions on RTI.	Will apply concepts to current projects.
Renewed enthusiasm and hope. Reinforcement. The Synergy that comes from "like minds". I did not get any weird looks during the two days like I do sometimes here in the office.	Will Incorporate different structures, approaches and ideas into planning. Share websites and resources with coworkers. Disseminate the information in our state.
the sharing	to enhance the work that I have been doing; to network with other state teams about the projects that will improve the quality of the technical assistance we provide
Evaluation discussion and handouts	Implement evaluation strategies

What did you find most useful about the meeting?	How do you plan on using the information gained from the meeting?
All of it was very useful. Marketplace was really good.	how to approach challenges. Ideas to gather better information.
The sharing of information through the SIG Marketplace.	To use both as the evaluator as well as a staff for another grant.
The project staff were really friendly and open to new ideas and to sharing.	Will share with staff back home
The chance to hear from others about their work -- I thought the focused discussions worked well.	I gathered some great ideas that I can use to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of our SPDG.
The Teacher Retention presentation and video and the Marketplace of Ideas	I plan to focus more on issues related to fidelity and sustainability
The sharing among evaluators was good - I got good ideas, as well as a greater sense that none of us have it all sewed up, but rather all live in a world of attempting to find the best way to document, refine, replicate, and support impact for the ultimate customer, kids with disabilities.	I got good ideas on simplifying data collection of effort/effect for my field people, as well as some leads for fidelity check strategies. In addition, some of the "celebration" strategies projects presented, used to spotlight the good effects among client schools/districts, et cetera were really cool, and I intend to take advantage of that information.
Learning what other states have done and plan to do. Larry's input, from the federal level, is always good to hear.	Information will be shared with other project staff and will be used to review our current projects in relation to other states. Will also contact other state project staff for additional information.
Opportunity to question others on what they are doing, why and how it is working for them. Some of the presentations were really outstanding and reflect some really useful changes.	Incorporate some of the ideas into our new SPDG and other related projects not technically connected to or fiscally supported by the SPDG
Sharing of information on projects. Thoughtful discussion on issues like retention and HQT.	Network with other state projects to gather ideas and products already in place that will help us meet our grant goals.
Opportunity to network with other evaluators.	Will share resources from the Marketplace with SEA staff in at least 2 states. Will use information shared during evaluators' session in my evaluation practice.
I found the discussions among my fellow evaluators the most useful. It's so unique to be able to connect with others who perform the same function.	It was helpful to network with some of the other evaluators and get their perspectives on the work. I plan to review the evaluation tools used by the other evaluators in order to determine ways to improve the ones I use.
Sharing with other evaluators and meeting with staff from the state I evaluate.	I will use some of the information shared at the evaluator session for data-gathering efforts.
The fact that the questions around the 4 topics actually was applicable to other areas.	I particularly like any systems pieces so that we can apply across or as filters to use in implementation
I really enjoyed hearing from other SIG sites-their successes and challenges.	I will use the ideas I gained, both from the presentations and through discussions, to expand and strengthen our initiatives.

What did you find most useful about the meeting?	How do you plan on using the information gained from the meeting?
The discussions were the most helpful. Having the opportunity to meet and identify colleagues in other states that are working in the same context is very important to me as a state department consultant. I plan to informally continue the conversations with others.	I plan to incorporate some of strategies I learned of into my work with the SPDG.
Getting to know professional colleagues who are seeking to address challenges similar to our own, and comparing notes on our respective efforts.	Will be searching through materials and contacting colleagues to access tools, techniques, and strategies that can advance our own learning, implementation, and sustainability efforts.
Information sharing about strategies for overcoming barriers to implementation. Information regarding evaluation strategies.	Information on Management, Content Implementation/Scaling-Up, Evaluation and Sustainability will assist in our new SPDG implementation. Got good info on Co-Teaching and Induction/Mentoring.
Evaluator session	The examples are very helpful because states are in such differing stages of implementation. We hope to use some of the protocols and data collection plans to formulate next steps for our project.
Collection of regional directors and evaluators as sub-group of larger project was valuable. Time with Larry and Audrey as resources.	Baseline for networking and use of ideas to build into our project
It informed me about the wide range of initiatives among the SPDGs.	Integrate it into my current knowledge about SEA initiatives.
all was good, but being able to actually talk face to face with both state and OSEP people was the best. also, several of us scheduled extraneous needed mtgs around this one.	contacting several of these people to help plan our future in our state
I really enjoyed hearing about the other projects.	I am happy to have met everyone on the grant face to face. This will enable for our meetings to be on a more personal note.
hearing how other states were approaching the same projects and/or issues Also informal networking with other states	share with others working on similar projects; incorporate some of the ideas gained into plans for current projects

What would you have done differently to improve the meeting?	What additional support might you need from OSEP and the SIG Network over the next year (e.g., suggestions for changes to SIG Network, an annual regional meeting same time next year)?
43 Responses	43 Responses
changed the round robin of what we are doing to the first day	a Jan-Feb meeting would be better...time to reflect on DC fly-in exchanges
Do the market sharing the last activity of day one. If people viewed the resources that evening, they could speak with those people the next day if they had questions.	Continue to have evaluator time at the OSEP in July and other annual regional meeting next year. I think mid-October to 2nd week in November is a good time for people. The next open time would be mid- January to February.

What would you have done differently to improve the meeting?	What additional support might you need from OSEP and the SIG Network over the next year (e.g., suggestions for changes to SIG Network, an annual regional meeting same time next year)?
I like the idea of having people share materials in the first day, perhaps after one presentation by a state. That will allow us to then connect with other states based on their materials and ideas throughout the conference and even at dinner. Also, there needs to be a few more scheduled mini-breaks, particularly after breakfast and lunch.	I know that I will get a lot more out of additional regional meetings in the future because I know what to expect and what to come prepared to ask.
Have a concrete and thorough agenda completed at least 60 days in advance. More information prior to the meeting regarding how the Poster Session would work.	Although I did get a couple of good ideas at this meeting - when traveling nationally (with the time and the cost) it is best to come home with 10 great ideas. Maybe just do the regional meetings every couple of years, or set up regional meetings at the OSEP conference in the summer.
I liked the suggestion of moving the market place to the beginning to allow more time for follow-up.	The level of support for this program is truly exceptional from the teleconferences to the website and now these regional meetings.
Provided an opportunity for an informal get together/social the first night. Would be a way to provide additional time for staff to talk with other states, etc.	Have a regional meeting around this time next year. Provide an online summary of learnings and "products" and tools from projects.
I would bring other SPDG Coordinator's if I could afford to.	Another annual Project Director's meeting. Should we meet with the same group or mix it up with other regions to learn more new and different stuff? I see the pluses and misses to both.
Have the sharing out first, but make every state stick to a 5-minute overview. At the end of 5 minutes, forcibly remove the speaker from the stage. :) (I smile, but I am serious about 5-minute time limit; some people talk way too much!) Have more evaluator-only sessions.	An annual regional meeting would be helpful.
na	Regional meetings are nice. Maybe an evaluator-only meeting at the July conference.
Just keep changing the topics periodically from meeting to meeting (not within meeting).	it is too early in the process for me to determine. I appreciate knowing that OSEP staff are available to support states as we start the implementation of the grant
I would group the states by project status (e.g. SIG I, SIG II, SPDG) not by geographic regions. The first day was not very helpful to us, as we are midway through our SPDG which has a different focus than the SIGs	The SIG Network has become a viable and important support mechanism for the grantees, evaluators, RRCs, and OSEP to engage in ongoing dialogue and to be informed of current "need to know" announcements. The depth of interaction among the grantees and opportunities to learn from each other are greatly enhanced through the regional meeting format of "jobs alike" participation.
More time for state sharing if possible-could have used another 2 hours-but we are so grateful for what we got-it was great! Would have liked to have heard a report back from the evaluators about what they discussed.	None.

What would you have done differently to improve the meeting?	What additional support might you need from OSEP and the SIG Network over the next year (e.g., suggestions for changes to SIG Network, an annual regional meeting same time next year)?
Change format for either one full day--working later into the night/dinner or two-day format working until 3:00 p.m.	Another regional meeting would be very helpful, but would like to discuss with other SPDGs not so much SIGs. Too much on RTI and PBIS.
More time for sharing of ideas (the Marketplace activity). Had each state sharing info at least bring a handout of web addresses.	Everything is great--another regional meeting would be good next year! Larry and Audrey have gone the extra mile to help and support us--which is much appreciated!
Nothing, it worked well.	Yes...Annual regional meeting
More time with just the evaluators.	I'd attend another regional meeting at the same time next year.
More time allowed for the marketplace with time after the sharing where we can further discuss ideas and practices in even a smaller setting...like over dinner etc.	It would be great to meet again next year, with more notice of the dates and locations.
Additional time (Two full days)	The regional meeting was extremely helpful. I would love for it to continue. The OSEP Conference in the summer is always superb, however it doesn't foster the small group sharing the same way this meeting did. This meeting was well organized and carried out. In addition to this meeting the ongoing support we receive from Dr. Wexler and signetwork throughout the year are wonderful.
Nothing	the supports you are providing are great.
No suggestions.	Annual regional meetings with a similar format to the recent meeting would be useful.
I wish my team members would have stayed longer. When there is no one from your own state/SPDG to process the information through/with the info becomes less meaningful and harder to convey.	This was great. Keep up the good work. Like the format.
it was really great...I can't think of anything	An annual regional meeting the same time next year
It turned out that the marketplace could have used more time.	One full day for ALL evaluators to meet to discuss technical issues, conceptual frameworks, how to address challenges, teach each other on how to approach things like reporting, data management, software issues, etc. National meetings are best for evaluators to meet given the breath of expertise. Regional meetings are good for tool sharing and more detailed discussions.
Make it longer--include some structured content sessions with follow-up with actual grant examples as given during the session.	Continuous open communication
Change the meeting room a little so everyone could see each other, and have room to manovoer in and out of seats, with baggage, etc..Also would have preferred a later start on both days, maybe 10am to allow me to deal with morning routines.	Maybe meet to present reports?
Possibly shorter presentations and more focused discussions. The layout of the room was not conducive to networking except with the folks sitting next to you.	I think we need to continue the regional SPDG meetings same time next year.

What would you have done differently to improve the meeting?	What additional support might you need from OSEP and the SIG Network over the next year (e.g., suggestions for changes to SIG Network, an annual regional meeting same time next year)?
I think the five minute limit should be respected by the presenters.	It seems that there are elements that cross just about all the projects. Two that come to mind are the paucity of evidence for practices in some critical areas that rises to the level OSEP has described as scientifically based, and the need for effective models for fidelity monitoring that are not content specific but rather focus on effective process. If SIGNetwork could be a clearing house for those two issues, perhaps trolling the resources here and abroad for info to pass on and providing platforms for discussion, that would, I think, be an enormous advantage to all of us.
1. Consider doing a pre-meeting survey to identify burning issues, summarize the responses, and offer a two hour block during which participants pick among three or four of those for a more intense dialog. Do this soon enough that you can publicize the groupings and the participants in each group in advance, allowing the participants to share the kernel of their concerns in advance with group members so we can all come prepared to, as my grandmother used to say, "cuss and dis-cuss". 2. Provide a script/template for presentations with very specific guidelines about content. It is difficult for a person deeply involved in a project and fascinated with all aspects of it to realize that for presentation purposes, the content must be severely summarized, presented with descriptive intros as to the most salient features that will be addressed, and with visuals that are not visually cluttered. When participants are not familiar with the project, a dense visual aid or an oral presentation that includes too many components of a program (of which they are justifiably proud, mind you), the impact is lost because we do not have the scaffolding on which to hang the information.	The teleconferences are helpful. The topics and presenters have been informative and have led to positive reviews of what we are doing, or should be doing. About one every six to eight weeks would probably be okay. The regional meeting was very useful and I would be in favor of an annual meeting. An expansion of SIG/SPDG links from the SIG Network website to state websites would be greatly appreciated.
Perhaps more joint discussion with project staff and evaluators. These two perspectives, and how we can jointly engage in problem solving and idea sharing would be enlightening. Also, more focused time on how state projects have met and overcome obstacles in program implementation.	Topical presentations on issues like Rtl, EIS, PBS, Higher Ed. involvement -- but only as they relate to systems change efforts promoted through the SIG/SPDG.
Shorten the presentations to about 1 hour each. Some of the 2 hour presentations were just too long, with some unnecessary details particular to the state presenting that really is only of interest to those within the state.	Annual sharing/networking meetings are very useful tools. SIG Network could be more interactive in highlighting a new monthly issue/topic that a state has made great progress in. A notification email that something new on a particular topic is posted would be helpful too.
This was the best SIG/SPDG meeting I attended. I have been involved with SIG projects since 1999.	Getting the resources up on the web site will be great, now we will need to keep it current. A periodic reminder to folks may help. Another annual meeting next year, same time.

What would you have done differently to improve the meeting?	What additional support might you need from OSEP and the SIG Network over the next year (e.g., suggestions for changes to SIG Network, an annual regional meeting same time next year)?
Locking in a location earlier to avoid problems with out-of-state travel.	I would like to see how OSEP uses the evaluation data we provide. Specifically, any reports they have WESTAT put together.
More specifics on Friday sharing so that each state would share a highlight or two.	I'll have to get back to you on this one.
Anything around systems-- keeping things at a "big picture" level and then should a state desire more detail, then the state can pursue that information.	I really did enjoy the meeting! I would very much like to have another opportunity to do this again. I liked the collegial accountability as well as "dedicated time" to gain insights to other projects that I might never have the time to access otherwise.
The room arrangemnt wasn't the greatest--but it worked OK-	I think that building a network of SIG folks from our 2 regions is very important and I think that happens by spending time together. Please keep having these meetings.
Following up each presentation with small group discussion, then reconvening the whole group to pose questions to the presenter. This would give us processing time for the content, an opportunity to further compare perspectives, and a chance to deepen our inquiry.	Continue the regional meetings (twice a year)
Had more time and topics	It may be that a thematic approach to regional conferences might worth considering. Then a particular content area (math/ELA?) or system change strategy (NIRN/ICT?) could be focused on and key informants made available for a full day (two?) for consultation. I would suspect that the return on investment would be considerable.
Hold meeting in a city with an international airport	Would like to see one annual regional meeting and one annual meeting consisting of states of similar size and/or grant focus.
Nothing as this was the first time to really connect as a sub-group. Next year developed targeted topics shared with progress reporting by projects.	Like the idea of an annual regional meeting
Maybe a short written summary of what each state is doing or, to save paper, put it on the website. (That may have been included; I don't have my materials in front of me.)	Annual regional meeting is a greta idea.
really, it was put together very well.	I thought the meeting was helpful.
I think the marketing aspect could have been more improved or organized.	sure, another mtg next yr sounds good.
<p>liked the topical approach; also liked the informal nature of the meeting which promoted discussion and exchange of ideas</p> <p>Would have liked representation from larger states with many urban districts similar to NJ</p>	I think an annual meeting is a great idea.

Comments.
39 Responses
Thank you Larry for making this innovation
Thanks for all of the work to make this regional face-to-face meeting happen. It was a great experience.
Food was great
Thank you for everything.
Good Job, Audrey (and, of course, Larry!)
Great job of organizing the conference, Audrey! Keep up the excellent work. Thanks for answering emails promptly! Larry, good job facilitating.
thanks for the opportunity to get together with representatives from other areas to share our work
Thank you to Audrey, Larry, and the planning committee. This opportunity strengthened the networking and awareness of resources for SIG/SPDG directors and evaluators.
The facilities were comfortable and conducive to the meeting purpose; agenda schedule was travel friendly for airport connections in/out of Kansas City.
Nice job. Enjoyed the meeting. Next time, a city where the airport is closer to downtown would be good (to decrease time and price in getting from airport to hotel site).
Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to learn about other projects, network with other states and share ideas. This format is much more efficient than traditional presentation only meeting. The facility was great.
Meeting was super-thanks for all your work-the facility gets A+ for service!
Thanks to Audrey and Larry for making this session so useful and comfortable!
This was a great meeting. I think next time I could be more prepared as I will know what to expect.
Thank you very much for the support your provide.
The small group concept was non intimidating and lots of good information was shared.
Thanks so much for facilitating this important coming together of the projects. It is clear that we've made so much growth in the past few years in terms of being able to articulate our programs and focuses. Having the chance to listen and talk deepens the relationships and spurs on the work.
Very good meeting
Thank you for taking the time to set this up and go to each of the sessions. I know it was extra work for you and time away from the office but it was very useful. thank you
Thanks. It was time well-spent.
Thank you for all of your hard work. Love the humor. I sincerely appreciate what you do. You all are making an incredible difference in many lives.
Thanks.
I really liked the sharing of products.
Thank you for your hard work and support. The last 2 days were very beneficial and helpful - your work is appreciated!

Comments.
Thank you for planning this meeting--it was great!
Keep in mind that collaboration does not have to be face to face. I truly enjoy the opportunity to get together, but it is not only a \$\$ issue for OSEP, but a capacity issue for all projects just in terms of the time, and in some cases, because of the peculiarities of the state's fiscal situation, also out of pocket dollars. We need to walk the walk and talk the talk in terms of technology - we ask our educators in classrooms to recognize that the kids they teach are technologically eons ahead of them in their technology skills, and we challenge the teachers to get with the program. Okay, let us take up that mantle, and take advantage of sites like TappedIn, EduForge, HotChalk, and wiki sites for collaborative document development like PBWiki and Wikispaces, as well as NineHub, a free Moodle space. It would require that people take about 30 minutes to become familiar with whichever option we decide upon, but the flexibility of being able to enter discussions and work on documents collaboratively on our own time frames when that is most productive and then participate in a realtime written discussion through a discussion board or a whiteboard has a lot of potential for people who are very busy. This approach is also dynamic, because the conversation remains open - if you realize 30 minutes after your last post that you have a great idea, it is not too late - just log back in. At any rate, I want to give my thanks and congratulations to Audrey, Larry, and any and all others who were involved in making the opportunity not only thought productive, but comfortable and fun. Larry, I hope your ears burn after these meetings, because the discussion is rich with respect and admiration of the ways you support the projects, navigating the shoals of bureaucracy and keeping your (and our) eyes on the prize. Thanks to you all. Wilma Jozwiak
Thanks very much for your hard work in pulling these meetings together. I sincerely appreciate the work the SIG Network staff does.
For a first shot at this, it was a pretty good use of my time. With a little tweaking, I think this will be a valuable addition for all us, especially as an adjunct to the conference calls.
Nice work, Audrey and Leslie! Thanks to you both and Larry for supporting this effort.
Thanks for taking the time to plan and conduct this meeting. It's certainly time well spent.
Thanks for all the support from a "new kid"; on the block! I look forward to learning, growing, and impacting capacity for our state.
Great opportunity! Thanks for taking the time to plan, organize and facilitate these meetings! In the future, let the states host the meetings and give yourselves a break-
Stay the course! The conference calls, Project Director name badge identification for SIG/SPDG staff, the regional meetings, the website, all these are enhancing our own "community of learners" to the benefit of all. I applaud OSEP's redesign work over the last year!
IT WAS GREAT!!!!!!!!!!
Thank you to Larry and Audrey for putting together 2 days--well spent!
Thank you for this opportunity - it was well worth the time.
Well done; well organized. Larry did a great job facilitating.
larry is the best facilitator. audrey is doing a great job. these sig people and osep people are kinda likeable, very caring, and brilliant. i like hanging out with them. smiles, thanks for all the good food and company. i like the informal format for a nice breather.
This meeting ocured at a perfect time. We had just attained these grants and had our first conference call. Meeting everyone and making sure we were on the same page helped a great deal.
Well organized meeting. Worth the time and the trip. Thank you
Can we have more advanced notice of the meetings. For our state request our annual travel by June of each fiscal year.
It's critical to send a thorough agenda 60 days in advance for travel approval purposes. They only approved one person to travel.