



# Blueprint for Maryland's Future Special Education Workgroup

Workgroup Meeting #4

November 29, 2023

Co-Chairs | Dr. Carey Wright, Interim State Superintendent of Schools  
Liz Zogby, Special Education Policy & Advocacy

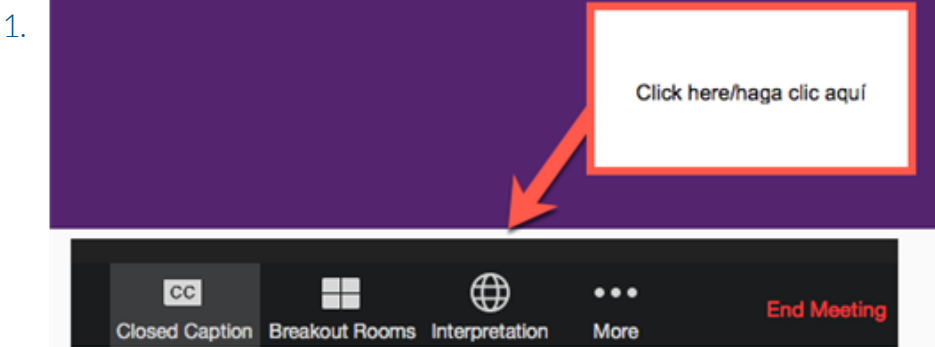


# Note to Attendees

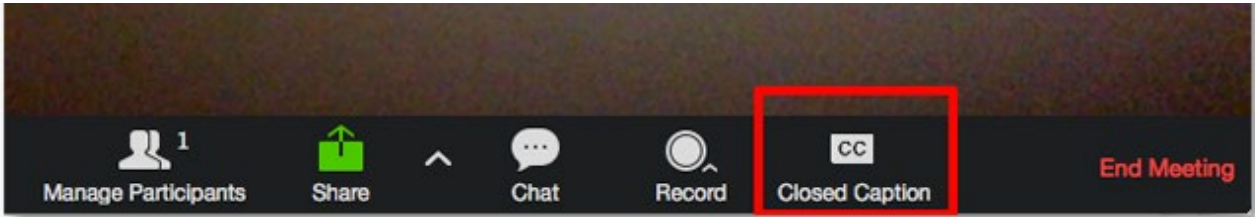
<https://youtube.com/live/LjC5RQ8diKM?feature=share>

This meeting is being recorded and livestreamed via MSDE's YouTube channel:

¿Español?



Closed Captioning



# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Meeting #1 and #2 Recap and Guiding Questions
4. Meeting #3 and #4 Guiding Question
5. Expert Presentation - Getting Ready for MTSS
6. Introduction of Nathan Levenson and Small Group Discussions
7. Future Meetings and Next Steps



# Public Comment

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. **Public Comment**
3. Meeting #1 and #2 Recap and Guiding Questions
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*Hear from Registered Guests – Public Comment Period*

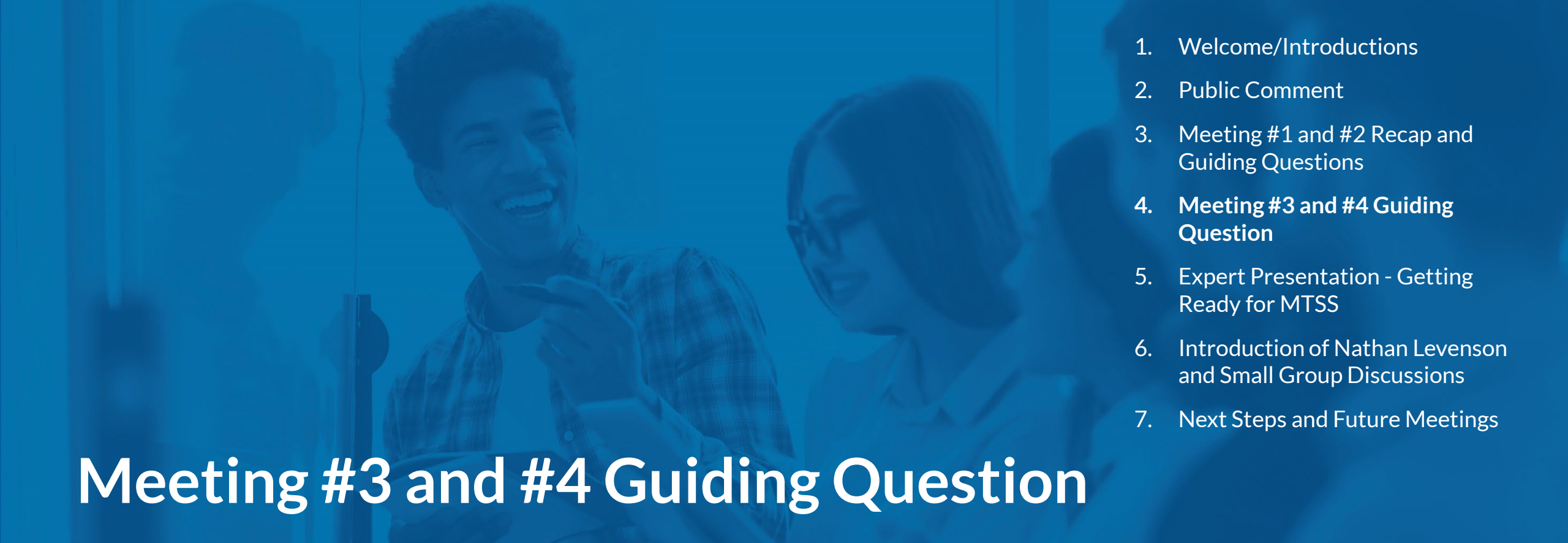


# Meeting #1 and #2 Recap and Guiding Questions

1. Welcome/Introductions
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*Guiding Question #1: What is the state of students with disabilities in Maryland? How do we overcome persistent barriers to effective implementation?*

*Guiding Question #2: What are existing standards and expectations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for the progress students with disabilities should be able to achieve? How do we ensure that IEP goals are appropriately ambitious?*

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# Meeting #3 and #4 Guiding Question

*How can general and special education be more effectively integrated so that the instruction and built-in supports in general education can better meet the needs of students, resulting in fewer referrals and identification?*



# Introduction of Nathan Levenson and Small Group Discussions

1. Welcome/Introductions
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4. Meeting #3 and #4 Guiding Question
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*Considerations for how SEAs can support implementation*

## Nathan Levenson

- **Superintendent:** former Superintendent in Arlington, MA who oversaw efforts that:
  - Reduced the high school special education achievement gap by 40 points
  - Reduced the number of struggling readers in grades K-5 by 68%
- **Consultant:** served more than 250 school districts across over 30 states
- **Author:** wrote 4 books and 50+ whitepapers and articles
  - *Six Shifts to Improve Special Education and Other Interventions: A Commonsense Approach*, Harvard Educational Press, 2020
  - “Improving & Expanding Social, Emotional, & Behavioral Supports,” District Management Journal, 2017





# Breakout Sessions

- Each of the Workgroup members will now participate in one of five (5) breakout groups
- These groups will offer you opportunity for dialogue to:
  - (1) identify specific recommendations should the Workgroup make on the range of possible options for MTSS implementation;
  - (2) discuss how can we overcome barriers to implementation of RTI/MTSS to ensure consistency and fidelity of implementation across the state;
  - (3) identify how we ensure that ALL students with disabilities benefit from MTSS in academics, behavior, and SEL; and
  - (4) think about what other areas need to be considered/reexamined to fully realize a vision of full MTSS implementation that maximizes integration of general and special education and reduces inappropriate referrals to special education.

# Breakout Sessions

- Each breakout group will have a small group discussion guided by the same questions
  - A facilitator from the Workgroup has been identified for each group
  - A notetaker will record participants' comments and will monitor the chat box
  - A timekeeper will ensure opportunities to discuss each question
- We ask that each group identify someone to maintain a “Capture Sheet” to report back to the large group on themes and any specific recommendations arising from each group

# Breakout Sessions

- Membership in breakout sessions is predetermined
- Each person in the Workgroup will now be moved to a breakout session
  - Those of you attending in person will move physically
  - Those of you attending virtually will move through the miracle of Zoom
    - **NOTE:** If you require sign language interpretation, please remain in this room

**Group #1** will remain in this room

**Group #2** will move with Carmen to a room immediately off this room

**Group #3** will move with Alison Barmat to conference room #1 on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor

**Group #4** will move with Brian Morrison to conference room #2 on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor


**Group #5** will move with Paige Bradford to conference room #3 on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor

# Guiding Questions

- What specific recommendations should the Workgroup make on the range of possible options for MTSS implementation (e.g., Should the state have a list of approved interventions for ALL students like Mississippi? Should special education instruction be provided within the tiers?)
- How can we overcome barriers to implementation of RTI/MTSS to ensure consistency and fidelity of implementation across the state?
- How can we ensure that ALL students with disabilities benefit from MTSS in academics, behavior, and SEL?
- What other areas — beyond the nuts and bolts of MTSS design — need to be considered/reexamined to fully realize a vision of full MTSS implementation that maximizes integration of general and special education and reduces inappropriate referrals to special education? (I.e., what specific questions do we need to add to upcoming sessions about Teacher Quality, Service Delivery Models, etc.? Are there topics that we don't have on the current list of topics that need to be reviewed in order to fully implement MTSS?)

## Exit Ticket

- If you walked into a school that had highly effective MTSS, what would you see?
- Why do you think so many schools and school systems have struggled to implement MTSS well and at scale?
- What could MSDE do to help districts that have struggled to implement MTSS well and at scale?

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# Next Steps and Future Meetings

*Moving the work forward*

# Next Steps and Resources

## Listening Tours

- Between now and January 30, 2024 with **Nate Levenson and Dr. Antoine Hickman**

## Next Meeting

- **January 30, 2024 (Please note this is a Tuesday)** from 4pm to 6pm at MSDE's Board Room in Baltimore, with a virtual option.
- **Guiding Question Continued:** How can general education and special education be more effectively integrated so that all students with disabilities are able to access and participate in the general education curriculum with their non-disabled peers and receive specially designed instruction and related services to ensure they are successful?
- **Forthcoming:**
  - Takeaways
  - Reading recommendations
  - Requested data and supporting analysis (as applicable)

**MSDE Blueprint Special Education Workgroup Webpage:**  
[Blueprint.MarylandPublicSchools.org/Special-Education-Workgroup](https://Blueprint.MarylandPublicSchools.org/Special-Education-Workgroup)

# Initial Report: Table of Contents

- **Note from the Co-Chair**
- **Executive Summary**
  - Blueprint Special Education Workgroup Overview
  - Workgroup Meetings
  - Initial Recommendation Brainstorming Activity
- **Meeting #1: August 23, 2023**
  - Guiding question
  - Guest speaker
  - The state of students with disabilities in Maryland
  - Action items and outstanding questions
- **Meeting #2: September 20, 2023**
  - Guiding questions
  - Guiding research
  - Initial recommendation brainstorming activity
  - Key takeaways
  - Action items and outstanding questions
- **Meeting #3: November 1, 2023**
  - Guiding question
  - Guiding research
  - Key takeaways
  - Action items and outstanding questions
- **Next Steps**
  - Proposed topics and guiding questions for future meetings
  - Reports and recommendations
- **Appendices**



# Future Meeting Dates

Date	Time
Tuesday, January 30, 2024	4:00 - 6:00 pm
Wednesday, February 28, 2024	4:00 - 6:00 pm
Wednesday, March 20, 2024	4:00 - 6:00 pm
Wednesday, April 24, 2023	4:00 - 6:00 pm
Wednesday, May 29, 2024	4:00 - 6:00 pm

Location - Meetings will be held at the Maryland State Department of Education located at 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 in the 7th floor Board Room, with a virtual option for attendance.

# BLUEPRINT

FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE

More information can be found on MSDE's Blueprint webpage:

[Blueprint.MarylandPublicSchools.org](https://Blueprint.MarylandPublicSchools.org)