

Showcasing Evidence Based Practices (EBP) in maaps member schools Interview Questions

The **maaps** EBP Committee is looking to learn about the EBPs that you use at your school. The EBP can be clinical or education based. Please answer the questions below regarding the EBP you wish to highlight.

Name of Person Interviewed: Tamra Williams, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Services and Sherry Lynn MacNeil, MEd, BCBA, Education Director **Date:** 2/24/15

School: Devereux **EBP Showcased:** AIMSweb

Type of EBP (clinical, educational, etc.): Educational

1. What issue or circumstances initially made you look for an EBP to better serve your student population?

We administer several types of standardized tests to assess academic skill level on an annual or triennial basis but wanted measures that were more sensitive to short term changes in academic proficiency in basic skills. We wanted an evidence based measure that could be administered more frequently in a way that permitted teachers to closely monitor a student's progress on a quarterly, monthly or even weekly basis, depending upon the student's need.

2. Why did you choose this EBP?

We chose AIMSweb because it is one of the most widely used, standardized curriculum based measurement products. AIMSweb fit with Devereux's emphasis on data-based decision making. It allowed us to closely monitor progress, academic proficiency and response to academic interventions at an individual, classroom or school-wide level. We use it to help determine whether our academic interventions are effective or if instructional modifications are necessary (e.g. a student needs more intensive academic support in a particular area or a different intervention). We also chose AIMSweb because it takes very little time to administer and the availability of multiple forms helps to minimize practice effects. Graphs and reports are readily available and easy to run once data has been entered and can be shared with parents/guardians.

3. What made you choose this EBP instead of another one? Were you strongly considering another EBP?

We were not considering other standardized curriculum based measurement products, but we did weigh the advantages and disadvantages of adding another assessment process to the standardized testing that we were already providing. We decided that there were significant advantages to students and teachers.

4. How was or is the implementation process?

We set up a train-the-trainer model and utilized AIMSweb's online curriculum to train educational staff on administration of the probes and scoring. We also purchased consultation calls with an AIMSweb expert to answer any questions that were not covered by the web-based training modules. We had an AIMSweb trainer come to our campus twice to provide direct instruction and consultation. We also designed an AIMSweb coordinator. We established our benchmarking time frames and each subsequent administration became easier with practice. We continue to have internal consultation calls with educational and AIMSweb experts at Devereux.

5. Did you run into any challenges implementing this EBP?

The implementation was fairly straightforward. We attempted to migrate to the newer version of AIMSweb, but at the time, there were some technical difficulties with the new product and it was retracted. Once the issues are resolved, we intend to transition to the new version.

We created benchmarking periods across the school that allowed for dedicated time and consistent implementation. The AIMSweb Coordinator assisted any teachers who had technical difficulties or needed support implementing the benchmarking assessment.

6. How did you learn about this EBP?

Through Devereux's Center for Effective Schools.

7. Do you have any advice for another school potentially looking into this EBP or another one?

The face-to-face training through AIMSweb allows teachers to get hands-on training with an expert and ask questions in real time. However, the web-based training is a nice alternative that is less costly.

If you have additional questions, please contact Theresa Melito, M.Ed. Director of Member Assistance and Development at tmelito@maaps.org or by phone at 781-909-5308.