



SWOT Analysis Activity State Infrastructure

NCRRC Part B and C Regional Meeting
October 24-25, 2013

Marriott Chicago Downtown Magnificent Mile • Chicago, Illinois

SWOT Analysis—State Infrastructure

What is SWOT Analysis?

SWOT analysis is a technique used by many public and private agencies as a strategy for describing the *Strengths*, *Weaknesses*, *Opportunities*, and *Threats* that impact performance of the agency. Often used as a self-assessment tool, the purpose is to generate an initial and broad description of a State's system's strengths—and also what may be considered to be barriers to implementing the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). SWOT analysis is a tool that can provide useful information about aspects of the State's system that may be enhanced, changed, or modified in the future.

Components of SWOT Analysis

The grid below shows the main components of SWOT along with some questions intended to stimulate thinking for completing the SWOT Analysis Form. The questions are not all inclusive of all the issues that could be addressed, and States are certainly encouraged to think about and respond to other issues not highlighted below.

Questions Concerning Strengths

- What aspects of the State's mission and vision make it unique?
- In what ways does the State system support local systems in their efforts to implement evidenced-based strategies?
- In what ways do the State's policies and procedures ensure improved outcomes for all children?
- How are current State initiatives aligned?
- How does the State system leverage its resources (fiscal, material, personnel, etc.) to build capacity at the local system level?

Questions Concerning Weaknesses

- What issues or circumstances are seen as disadvantages to the State's ability to build capacity at the local system's level?
- What do State staff perceive as "gaps" with regard to organizational capability or structure?
- What are considered to be the State system's vulnerabilities?
- What are challenges with regard to the State's ability to support local systems in efforts to implement evidence-based strategies?
- What is the current state of morale and commitment of State staff to carry out the work of the SSIP?

Questions Concerning Opportunities

- What strategies are in place to foster collaboration and communication amongst and between State divisions, partners, and stakeholders?
- How are quality standards utilized to influence the work of the State?
- In what ways does the State utilize a convergence of evidence to identify statewide initiatives and the extent of need for those initiatives?
- How do stakeholders engage in active dialogue with the State in the identification of appropriate priorities?

Questions Concerning Threats

- What do State staff and/or stakeholders perceive as threats with regard to implementing SSIP activities?
- What are potential obstacles with regard to maintaining partnerships and collaborative communication among and between State divisions, partners, and stakeholders?
- What do stakeholders perceive as "gaps" with regard to the State's organizational capability or structure?

This document is based on the draft SPP/APR package disseminated for public comment by the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education in 2013.

SWOT Analysis Form—State Infrastructure

Directions: This SWOT Analysis is designed to generate an initial and broad description of a State’s system’s *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats*. To complete the *SWOT Analysis Form*, insert your cursor in each SWOT table cell and enter text. You may enter as many bulleted responses as you like—the table cells will expand accordingly. You do not need to address all questions in the *Components of SWOT Analysis* grid shown on the previous page—only those you think pertinent. Also, you are encouraged to generate responses to issues not included on the grid.

Team Members:	_____
Positions:	_____
Date:	_____

Strengths

-

Weaknesses

-

Opportunities

-

Threats

-