



Transcript for Post-Webinar Live Chat, *Effectively Using Your EWS Reports: Hints and Tips*

[Early Warning System Community of Practice](#)

October 25, 2012

School-Level vs. Student-Level Supports

nbucka: Agreed, the only problem for my schools is that that is why they get so overwhelmed (because truly they have school-wide issues vs intervention issues) and I try to push them to look at school-wide first for a preventative mindset, but the desire/push for kid-by-kid is pervasive

Response:

Jenny Scala: @Nbucka: I think that's where it can help to make sure people understand EWIMS/RTI process-- to encourage people to look at the trends.

nbucka: In line with what I said above, I try to emphasize in the beginning that we are learning a process and encourage beginning with the various school-wide reports (often starting with the aggregate and moving into the subgroups to model the data analysis/problem solving).

Jenny Scala: @nbucka: In talking with several HS principals/admin who are several years into the tiered support frameworks, many have commented that they are just now starting to understand/embrace the importance of looking at groups rather than individual students.

nbucka: @JennyScala Hmmm, maybe I should change my approach then...I just don't see how I can without completely overwhelming them. That would be a great topic (approach). In RTI/MTSS work here, they are two separate teams/groups (Leadership and Problem Solving), so that is how I am doing it but I would love to learn from others. That purpose is what decides what reports we focus on and then go by the questions we are trying to answer.

Jenny Scala: @nbucka: We are planning a webinar for early December that discusses how EWIMS and RTI/MTSS strengthen each other, and have slightly different grain sizes in terms of what each could be looking at.

Julie Riechers: @ nbucka: Does your school have any Positive Behavior Supports in place? This looks at school-wide issues and teaching expectations as preventative measures.

nbucka: @Julie I work with a bunch of schools and I would say at least half do PBS, but b/c of the way it was trained and rolled out-often it is a different leadership team (don't ask) and they rarely share the data/process school-wide. Most are in very early stages, as well, because the secondary schools were late in buy in.



Custom Reports

emily.boeckmann: Is there a way to filter by demographics such as race or gender, and then look at the cohorts? We have our cohorts set up by graduation year, but would like to be able to compare discrepancies between these two demographics within each cohort.

Response:

mhauenstein: @emily: race and gender aren't filters for the reports, but you can create a custom report (under student level reports) that list students by demographic info.

emily.boeckmann: @matt - thanks - looking at that way, is it an individual student report, or will it sort by demographic?

emily.boeckmann: @Matt - when I go to the Student Risk Status report section, demographics only include ELL, Disabilities, and Disadvantaged. Am I looking in the wrong place?

mhauenstein: @Emily: If you go into the reports control panel, in the student level reports drop down there are custom reports. These are the ones where you can include gender or race.

lyerhot: @emily.boeckmann: One way that I have seen schools filter by student demographic is to create separate tools by grade. From there, they have picked a specific demographic that they wish to track, i.e., race, and make those their Cohort categories.

emily.boeckmann: @lyerhot - thanks for the tip! that might be a solution (I'm working with two middle schools and a high school, so about 3,000 students).

Jenny Scala: @emily: if you do use multiple tools, please let us know how that works for you!

emily.boeckmann: @Jenny - I'm currently using 3 - one for each building. My fear with using one per grade level, is that would be 10 tools to keep up with that seems overwhelming.

Jenny Scala: @emily: I understand your concern, that could be overwhelming.

emily.boeckmann: @Matt - I see in my tool what you are referencing; however, where can I find information on how to customize the reports?

mhauenstein: @Emily: Our technical manual has some guidance on how to create the custom reports (p. 26) http://www.betterhighschools.org/documents/NHSC_EWSHighSchoolTechManual_000.pdf

nbucka: @mhauenstein Speaking of custom reports, although I haven't had a school at that point yet-have you had any feedback good or bad on using that function. I see it being invaluable when trying to find "root causes" rather than just "symptoms".



Jenny Scala: @nbucka & @mhauenstein: re: root causes question. Often the tool will provide information of what other areas could be addressed further. We encourage people to use multiple data sources when determining root causes.

Iyerhot: @everyone: Another great feature of the Custom Report is the ability to create a custom Attendance report. There is no specific report that addresses attendance so this is one way that you look at that particular risk indicator.

Reports with Shaded-out Students

Iyerhot: @mhauenstein: Someone asked why some students' information was shaded out and other students' information was not. Can you give a brief explanation as to why this occurs?

mhauenstein: @Iyerhot: Sure! Students who show up as shaded out in the reports have left the school.

Timeframe for Using EWS Reports

Iyerhot: @mhauenstein: We get asked by users when they should be looking at the reports. Can you elaborate on what points throughout the school year the EWIMS team should examine the reports?

Response:

mhauenstein: @Iyerhot: At least every time new performance information is added to the tool, but also when the team needs to make decisions on how to support students

EWS Collator Tools

emily.boeckmann: @Jenny and Matt - feedback from the tech person in my district who does the uploading of information for me says that the collator tool is very helpful! Thank you for that!

Response:

Jenny Scala: @Emily: great to hear the good news re: the collator tool!

Iyerhot: @emily: We're so glad that you are finding the Collators useful!!

General Information

NHSCCOP: The National High School Center's Website (<http://www.betterhighschools.org/ews.asp>) has additional information on all things EWS.