

Interviews with Exemplar States
JoAnne – Clip #6 Transcript

Jo Anne: There certainly are. Some of the benefits are that, I think we are focused totally on dispute resolution processes. We don't have the government systems that we have to deal with, you know, distracting us into other areas of special ed. We're just focused on our systems and it causes our movement to be much quicker. We can make decisions more quickly and move more quickly to get things done. So we were able to make a lot of change quickly because we didn't have all the ties of the different levels to go through. We had a contract that said this is what you need to do and we could focus on that and get it done. There are certain challenges that we face. We, it's very, very important to keep a close relationship with the State Department of Ed. We do that through contact, they participate on our advisory council, we have meetings with them. They don't control what we do, but we want them to know and approve of the activities and the directions that we're moving. It's important to keep that relationship because we're actually fulfilling their federal function and I need to know that I'm fulfilling it in a way which would make them proud.