

Interviews with Exemplar States
Patricia Williams – Clip #2 Transcript

Patricia: We have used the stakeholder process a lot, and we do so by gathering many strong voices in our community and in the stakeholders, by offering broad perspectives. So we have attorneys that represent parents, attorneys that represent districts that will be involved in the stakeholder process, we have advocates, we have educators. So we bring together many people with different perspectives and again, very strong voices. We have used them, for example, to set the targets for the indicators, so that they came and they actually established our targets. We have used them to, to propose draft legislation when IDEA was reauthorized, so that our state law could conform with the, the federal requirements. And I think that the value that the stakeholder process has brought to Wisconsin is - much better products than we, we ever would have done without their perspectives and without their voices. So that's been incredible. I also think it also, when we do have a product, be it a target or be it proposed legislation, there's much more of a buy-in, and there's you know a consensus for it and that's important. And then the other thing I wanted to mention about our stakeholder process is that we've always used facilitators to help with that and I think that's helped fostered agreement and consensus.