The Next Level: What's New in the Updated State Benchmarks of Quality

What is the SBOQ?

The State Benchmarks of Quality (SBoQ) 3.0 is used by a cross-sector State Leadership Team to assess progress and plan future actions for Pyramid Model statewide implementation in early childhood systems working with young children and families.

Rooted in Implementation Science, which facilitates the translation of research into practical application and allows for context-specific adaptations to enhance outcomes, the SBoQ enables the SLT to monitor progress through key stages:

- Exploration
- Installation
- Initial implementation
- Full implementation
- Scale-up and Sustainability

This systematic approach ensures data-informed and adaptable pathways towards the widespread and lasting implementation of the Pyramid Model.

The SBoQ is framed by the **four Essential Structures** from the Statewide Implementation Guide (SIG) and the Roadmap to Statewide Implementation of the Pyramid Model. The SIG and Roadmap describe the activities for each structure (state leadership team, professional development network, implementation sites, and the use of data for decision-making) that are pivotal for building and sustaining the systems necessary for statewide implementation.

What's new to the SBoQ?

In the SBoQ 3.0, we have updated the essential structures to reflect the innovations and effective approaches that have been used for state implementation and scale-up of the Pyramid Model implementation. In the revised SBoQ, the four essential structures are:

- State Leadership Team
- Professional Development Network (PDN) of Trainers and Program Implementation Coaches
- Implementation Programs and Community-Wide Implementation
- Data and Evaluation

The SBoQ 3.0 also includes new critical elements and benchmarks under each essential structure that are consistent with the innovations occurring in many states.

New Critical Elements and Benchmarks:

- Coordination of sector implementation
- Community-wide implementation
- Family Participation and Engagement

The revised tool makes it easier for states to structure their implementation within systems in ways that support their scale-up and sustainability plan, while still making sure communication and collaboration are happening at all levels of implementation.

Scoring Reminders:
All critical elements and their benchmarks on the SBoQ are meant to inform current implementation status and future action planning. It is not a Pyramid Model implementation fidelity tool.

If a state isn't currently prioritizing or formally structuring its efforts around specific sectors or community-wide implementation, the new benchmarks can be marked "0" for future consideration.

Key terms

Early Childhood Sector:

In the SBoQ 3.0, we refer to sectors to describe the diversity of entities, programs, and organizations providing services to children and their families that are funded and regulated by different systems. Examples might include public PreK, child care, Part C Early Intervention, family childcare, Head Start, Early Head Start, Tribal Nations, and other program settings serving young children and families.
Sectors also refer to entities with a vested interest in the social-emotional well-being of young children and their families, such as organizations providing child welfare services, mental health, family support, housing, health care, or the preparation of early educators.

Cross-Sector SLT:

The state leadership team is comprised of representatives from various early childhood sectors. We use the term, cross-sector, to refer to a collaborative group comprised of representatives from diverse programs or services across a state that support young children and their families. This team's specific focus is on understanding, implementing, and monitoring the implementation of the Pyramid Model initiative statewide.

Sector Planning and Implementation Team (SPLIT):

When relevant, early childhood sectors on the SLT can convene a Sector Planning and Implementation Team (SPLIT) to develop detailed plans for implementing the Pyramid Model within their service delivery sector. They will collaborate and provide insights to the state leadership team to ensure coordinated and informed statewide implementation.

Community-wide Implementation Team (CIT):

Community-wide implementation of the Pyramid Model refers to a collaborative effort by cross-agency groups to implement the model across service agencies and programs in their community. Community implementation is typically guided by a team of individuals from early childhood programs, family groups, and other service providers who are deeply invested in the promotion of young children's social, emotional, and behavioral development. CITs collaborate with the state team to identify available resources and personnel that can support their local efforts and to share information and data regarding their implementation progress.

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