



## OBSERVATION TOOL FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS & SYSTEMS

The **Observational Tool for Instructional Supports and Systems (OTISS)** aims to assess the quality of systems and supports available to help teachers use best practices for instruction. It is to be used when frameworks, approaches, and instructional practices that do not have a specific fidelity measure developed.

### Why collect data on the use of instructional practices

- Drives coaching supports
- Guides improvements to training
- Provides insight into implementation barriers (policy and support)
- Help understand why or why not student outcomes are improving

### What is OTISS?

- A 10-minute walk-through observing instruction
- Content-free design
- Applicable to any grade level and any part of instructional activity
- Focuses on general aspects of instruction that can inform support for teachers (training and coaching)
- Observes teacher's use of evidence-based instructional practices
- Data used by Implementation and Coaching Teams
- Accessible, Frequent, Relevant, Actionable

*"You mean it is the system and not me?"*

*Teacher participating at the  
Active States Forum*

*"We are beginning to get data linking outcomes to use of math instruction with fidelity."*

*Teaching Staff*

### What Teacher instructional behaviors are observed with OTISS?

1. Communicates clear learning goals
2. Demonstrates instructional task
3. Engages ALL students in meaningful interactions
4. Provides prompt and accurate feedback
5. Adjusts to ALL students' responses to instruction
6. Provides multiple opportunities for ALL students to practice
7. Adjusts to ALL students' engagement with instruction

### What are some of the benefits of using OTISS?

- Examines the use of a practice or program
- NOT attached to teacher evaluation
- Fits varying school context
- Non-content and grade level specific
- Short observation increments (10 min.)
- Applicable to any part of the instructional activity



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### How is OTISS data collected and used?

#### Data Collection

1. Permission of the teacher is obtained for observation.
2. Trained observer unobtrusively enters the classroom and observes instruction for 10 minutes.
3. Upon exiting the classroom, the observer completes the scoring protocol and enters the scores into [sisep.org](http://sisep.org) (an online data system).

#### Data Use

- Implementation Team reviews an aggregated report of data collected across multiple teachers within a time period.
- Actions for improvement to professional learning and coaching supports are identified and planned for.
- The individual classroom teacher is not reviewed

*"We had a pre-meeting before we ever went into a classroom with all teachers...they knew what we were looking for and what we were going to do with the data."*

*Regional Implementation Team Member*

### Who is currently using OTISS?



**For more information on OTISS contact [sisep@unc.edu](mailto:sisep@unc.edu).**