

### Background

In December, 2004, Paul Sindelar, Helen Thornton (COPSSE Project Officer), and Mary Jane Rapport met in Washington to review the related services work of COPSSE and discuss the next steps for this component of the Center. We were joined in a portion of our meeting by Lou Danielson (Division Director, OSEP) to discuss and explore our ideas with him. We talked about our interest in further identification of evidence based practices in schools. These conversations led us to identify a plan for the next steps in the work of the Related Services Design Panel (RSDP) as part of COPSSE.

### The Plan

We all agreed that additional work was needed to help address the question:

**What are the evidence-based practices that lead to the best student outcomes?**

In order to do this, we have worked with previous COPSSE authors and school-based experts in each of the professional organizations to identify two researchers/writers in each of four related services disciplines (OT, PT, SLP, and School Psychology) who will collaboratively co-author a paper summarizing existing literature on evidence-based practices in schools and address practices that may not have a well supported base of literature or evidence but are recognized within the discipline as “suggested” practice. These two authors will work with a representative from their respective national professional organizations (AOTA, APTA, ASHA, NASP) who has knowledge and understanding of school-based services.

A meeting will be held with authors and organization representatives in Washington, DC on August 23, 2005. At this meeting, discussions will help to shape the content and format of the papers. Further information on the meeting will be available at the website in the coming months. You can expect to see these four papers completed by late spring 2006.