

More than 3,500 “active” schools are now using Indistar in 20 states plus the District of Columbia and the Bureau of Indian Education. Once Indistar (by whatever name it is called in the state) is operating, the state has full access to the system for a variety of functions for districts and schools.

## *Indistar Features*

### *State Features and Options*

1. Indistar includes three levels—state, district, and school, plus a special dashboard for coaches. The state level includes both the state administrative page and the option of using system of support indicators to guide the SEA’s own improvement.
2. The state can provide different indicators for different categories of schools, for example SIG schools, schools in improvement, and exemplary schools. Also elementary schools, middle schools, or high schools.
3. A variety of forms and reports can be customized for the state’s purposes for districts and schools to submit to the state.
4. Reports can be made “reviewable,” which means the state reviews the report, returns with comments for further work, or accepts with comments.
5. The state can add crosswalks to the indicators that will display the indicators within different categories, such as a crosswalk with 9 Effective Practices, or accreditation requirements, or Title I requirements, or an instructional model.
6. The state can add filters to the indicators that will display a subset of indicators, for example all those that are relevant to special education or ELL.
7. The state can add a reporting dates filter to the indicators that will display only those indicators for which a district or school is responsible by a designated reporting date.
8. A Document Upload feature enables districts and schools to upload documents at any one time for the state to review. And the district can also review documents uploaded by its schools.

### ***State Features and Options Cont.***

9. The state administrative page includes a Data Mining feature to scan for exemplary district and school entries and coaching comments.
10. State reports on the state administrative page include an Implementation Report which shows the number and percent of districts or schools working on each indicator, how they have assessed them, and if they are fully implemented.
11. A Submission Report on the state administrative page enables the state to produce a name and email list of all superintendents or principals in districts or schools that have or have not submitted a specific report.
12. The state administrative page includes an Activity Log that shows how many districts, schools, coaches have logged in during a selected period of time.
13. The state administrative page toggles between school years so that the state maintains reports submitted by districts and schools for previous years.

### ***District and School Features***

1. Wise Ways research and practice briefs are linked to each indicator in the system to give school and district teams quick access to background information when assessing and implementing indicators of effective practice.
2. Indicators in Action includes 8 hours of online tutorials on 80 indicators for Instruction, Leadership, and School Community, with video demonstrations by school leaders, teachers, parent leaders.
3. Where Are We Now instantly displays charts and graphs tracking the team's progress.
4. We have added information particular to special education and ELL to appropriate Wise Ways.
5. A new set of high school indicators and Wise Ways is available.
6. Star Meetings is a tool that a state administrator, superintendent, or principal uses to establish various teams, appoint team leaders, and for the teams to use in preparing agendas and minutes.
7. Eighteen downloadable reports show progress and manage tasks in a variety of ways.

### ***District and School Features Cont.***

9. The district and school dashboards show both the most recently submitted of each report and the previously submitted report.
10. Quick Score produces a quick rating of the school or district's progress.
11. The Guest Login enables teachers, other staff, parents, school board members, or any others not on the Leadership Team to view the Leadership Team's plans and progress. The Guest Login is provided each district and school to disseminate to its stakeholders.
12. The Family Engagement Tool guides a school team, including parents, through a needs assessment of its family engagement programs (including a check of Title I requirements) and gives access to a rich library of family engagement resources.
13. The website at [www.indistar.org](http://www.indistar.org) provides many resources, including user manuals, Power Points, a video about Indistar, and documents to guide Leadership Teams and coaches.
14. Our client relations staff receives phone calls and emails from users every day and assists them with the system.

### ***Coaching Features***

1. A school team may be "coached" via the system by the superintendent, district liaison, and/or external coach, including a coach assigned by the state.
2. A district team may be "coached" by the state and/or an external coach determined by the district.
3. The Coaches Review on the coach's dashboard feature enables the coach to scan a variety of reports while entering a "coaching review" or "coaching comments".

### ***Coaching Features Cont.***

4. When a coach enters a coaching comment or coaching review, the principal and process manager receive an email alert, and a dialogue can be created with the coach within Indistar, maintaining documentation of the conversation.
  
5. Report Card enables a coach to add a qualitative assessment to Quick Score and submit both to the state and/or school or district.

**Center on Innovation & Improvement**

[www.centerii.org](http://www.centerii.org)

[www.indistar.org](http://www.indistar.org)