

Fall 2018 School Improvement Conference – Continuously Improving to Support Learning & Leaders
November 19, 2018 – Lansing Center



Breakout Session Descriptions

Title Basics 101

Are you new or nearly new to Title funding? Learn the basics of Federal Funding and how Title IA, IIA, and Title IV can support student achievement in your building. Included in this session will be a discussion of the “tail wagging the dog” scenario that some districts have historically followed when planning for Federal Funds and how flipping this to focus on the continuous improvement process, prior to determining any funding sources, will ensure increased student achievement and the ability to fully leverage your Federal Funds.

Making The Case for Makerspace

Do you have a makerspace already in your school/district? Or are you still questioning just what you, your students, or your school will gain from a makerspace? Do you still need ideas or reasons to support maker-centered learning? Should making connect to curriculum and student data? Pondering over where to get materials and funding? Or what space would we use? Concerned about all the logistics? During this session, we will try to answer all these questions to "make the case for making"!

Charting the Course: A Collaborative Approach to Meaningful School Improvement Plans

Participants will learn of the Framework, tools, processes and partners that have come together to create statewide solutions to support the School Improvement process. Together this ecosystem of solutions provides the tools for continued collaborative development leveraging the expertise of the Department of Education, ISDs, LEAs and the vendor community. Participants will gain an understanding of the toolset that currently exists to support their school improvement work. Presenters will seek input from participants around the potential extension of this work as a partnership between the field and State on the next phase of tools for school improvement.

MDE Whole Child District Needs Assessment: Overview and Feedback Opportunity

This session will provide an overview of the new Whole Child District Needs Assessment being developed by Michigan Department of Education, including the Whole Child component areas included, draft needs assessment questions within components, and anticipated functionality. Participants will have the opportunity to review the whole child needs assessment component areas and corresponding prepopulated data and questions, and provide feedback.

Michigan's Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System

Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System (EWIMS) is a data-driven, decision-making process that helps educators systematically identify students who are showing signs that they are at risk of dropping out of school, examine the underlying causes of risk and match student's™ needs to interventions, and monitor student's progress and the success of those interventions. This presentation will include an overview, discussion, and implementation resources.

Educator Certification

Educators are change agents for K-12 students and, as such, they are required to complete education-related professional learning to fully support student success and maintain certification. Appropriate for all educators, including administrators who support hiring and staffing, this session will outline the basics requirements for educator certification. This session will provide guidance on recent legislative changes and Administrative Rule revisions impacting renewals, permits and authorizations, including MCL 380.1233 and MCL 380.1233b, specific to School Counselors and Career and Technical Education.

Technology Integration Fellowship - Connecting School Improvement Goals and Technology

What happens when school improvement and educational technology collide? New possibilities! Learn about a project at CISD taking local school district building teams and focusing their visions on leveraging existing school technology for meaningful and impactful integration to address a Building or District School Improvement Plan goal.

Boosted by Technology: Integration in School Improvement Process

Participants will be provided with key strategies on how to plan and implement the use of technology strategically within the School Improvement Process.

Stories from the Field: Adventures in Educator Evaluation

Hear how several Michigan districts are approaching educator evaluation for the 18-19 school year. Panelists will share resources, lessons learned, and communication strategies that have helped create transparent and supportive educator evaluation systems.

M-STEP: Using the Results to Build Growth & Achievement

Are you looking for support in using the results of the M-STEP to build student growth and achievement in your school or district? Join us for this session where MDE staff will show you the reports and how to use those reports to build student achievement. Using this information, leaders can make data-driven decisions on how to improve the curricula and programs in their buildings and districts to build student achievement, growth and proficiency.

Data in Action: How to Implement a Data Cycle Process Within a District, School and Grade Level

How do you use a variety of data sources within your action planning? How do you determine which data reports to use to inform decision making? Join us to learn how to integrate the 4 types of data in goal setting and action planning at all levels within your school district.

Introduction to the Essential Practices in Literacy: Collectively, We CAN Make a Difference!

Have you heard about the Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy, developed by the Early Literacy Task Force? Attend this session to receive an overview of the document, including the research base, orientation, and tools to support with implementation. Learn how the document is foundational to improving literacy outcomes in Michigan.

Digging into the Essential School-Wide and Center-Wide Practices in Literacy

Participants will have the opportunity to dig deeper into the Essential School-Wide and Center-Wide Practices in Literacy and learn about tools that they can utilize with lead administrators, coaches, and teachers in their districts to further their understandings of these documents.

Appropriate Placement: What happens with no more Highly Qualified?

The requirements for Highly Qualified Teachers have been removed. Participants will review placement requirements and best practices. Additionally, we will address how to enhance your local educator pipeline.

MDE Effective School Library Toolkit for Administrators

Top 10 in 10 Strategy 2.7a calls for all students to have access to effective school libraries which positively impact student achievement, contribute to a well-rounded education, and equalize access to print and digital resources. This session will introduce the MDE Effective School Library Toolkit for Administrators which provides district administrators and field services personnel with information about the components of effective school library programs in order to expand Michigan student' access to such programs.

Transforming Students to Stewards: Fostering Great Lakes-Literacy in Schools (Panel Discussion)

This discussion will demonstrate strategies and collect input on best practices to incorporate Great Lakes and Water Literacy principles into classrooms, teacher training, and STEM/STEAM education. Michigan school improvement and student performance will benefit by grounding learning in the context of freshwater access. Place-based education and existing curricula will be discussed to support laying a foundation for solving critical water issues, with a goal of informing a pilot project to be incorporated into improvement plans.

#GoOpen and Level the Playing Field

If you are looking to update curriculum materials or adapt learning activities for personalized learning with free, high-quality, adaptable resources, you need to learn how to #GoOpen! Join other Michigan districts in using Open Educational Resources (OER) to update and expand classroom resources to positively impact student learning. Participants are encouraged to bring Google-compatible electronic devices.

Using Tech Tools for Formative Assessment and Increasing Student Engagement

How do you check for student understanding and make sure students are engaged in their own learning? This session will focus on easy to use electronic formative assessment applications that will make assessment more fun and more engaging for your students. Come learn how to use these tools to help improve your instructional practice and ensure that your students are learning on the first day of school. By attending this session, you will have access to a Google Folder that will contain complete set-up instructions for each tool demonstrated (Quizizz, Google Forms, Plickers, Padlet).

WIN (What I Need) Time, MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) Interventions

WIN (What I Need) Time, along with other MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) interventions, have been implemented to assist students specifically in the areas of Reading and Math. Walk away with a better understanding of ways to target the needs of ALL learners.

Continuous Improvement Takes Well-Designed Comprehensive Program Evaluation

Program evaluation is essential to provide stakeholders needed information about the impact of an initiative, and equally needed to provide insight for continuous improvement. Effective evaluation takes careful planning from the design phases and start of an initiative. Powerful evaluation calls for data that goes well beyond client perception surveys. Participants will learn to design and conduct impactful program evaluation to meet funder and decision-maker needs.

Quick and Easy Tips for Successful Parent Engagement

Need help figuring out how to get parents engaged in their child's learning? Can't decide what to do with parents when they want to help? Stop by to gain 10 quick and easy ideas to make parent engagement meaningful for everyone especially the students! Learn today, implement tomorrow.

Effectively Promoting and Supporting the Whole Child

This presentation focuses on how schools can successfully promote the health and learning of the whole child by integrating the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model into the school improvement planning process. Three schools participating in a statewide demonstration project implementing this process will be showcased. Curricular, school climate, and healthy school environment strategies will be highlighted. This approach to promoting the whole child is very replicable and helpful resources will be provided.

Instructional Coaching: Building a Foundation to Maximize Growth

Instructional coaching is a powerful tool in improving teaching and learning. In implementing a coaching program, taking steps to build readiness and knowledge is critical in fostering a culture of inquiry. This session will address important considerations for initiating and maximizing coaching in a school or district. When the proper foundation is set, the door opens for data driven coaching, focused on both student growth and instructional practices, having a measurable impact on achievement.

A Collaboratively Developed Model for using Student Growth Data in Educator Evaluation

Leaders and staff from Oak Park School District will share the collaborative process used to develop measures and weightings for the 40% student growth component. Presenters will share district metrics, business rules, the 5D+ feedback process, and related publications used to capture and communicate the model to district stakeholders. Staff will provide their perspectives on the collaborative process, the resulting model and connections to continuous improvement efforts across the district.

Chronic Health Conditions: Breaking Down a Common Barrier to Student Attendance and Learning

Michigan has one of the highest rates of asthma in the nation. Participants will take a deep dive into the prevalence of asthma and other common chronic health conditions and identify how schools can support students with chronic health conditions, including how to respond to medical emergencies in school. They will also learn how school attendance and the ability to learn is affected when a student has a chronic health condition.

A Practical Improvement Process

Our presentation will showcase the new resources available online at siTimeline.com for schools and districts to meet the needs of all students. The website was specifically built showcasing school improvement as a practical process that should not be rooted in compliance or any particular platform.

Putting SEL at the CORE of Our Work

Our district is on the right path putting SEL at the core of everything we do. This shift in practice has led to more recognition of the importance of relationships, understanding diverse backgrounds and experiences of not only our students, but staff; and led to having honest conversations on what adult learning is necessary to continue fostering a true, equitable environment. As we continue to strengthen our work and teach essential skills to students it has led to more consciousness of our adult lens and the importance of our recognition, understanding, and intentions. When the adults begin to have internal shifts in their thinking and behaviors then you are on the right track. Once you are on this track the bigger, heavy lifting occurs with work around - implicit bias, inequities, access, meaningful participation and other large scale practices that in time will lead to true culturally sustaining practices that support each and every student.

Growing and Retaining Effective Educators

Teacher retention and the growth of our teacher workforce are critically important to goals of improving student outcomes. Teacher attrition and teacher mobility symptoms have been associated with lower student academic achievement outcomes. Districts with high teacher attrition and mobility also incur financial costs that exacerbate inequities, because turnover disproportionately affects schools with high-need student populations. This session will present practices that will assist schools with retaining and growing a high-quality, prepared, and collaborative workforce.

Collaborative Inquiry: A Sustainable Continuous Improvement Process

Collaborative inquiry unleashes the resourcefulness and creativity of educators to continuously improve instruction so student learning is accelerated and all students reach standards of excellence. As an active participant you will gain insights into what collaborative inquiry is, how teachers and students benefit from its use, and what are the purposes of each step of the inquiry process. Walk away with key strategies for implementation of collaborative inquiry from an instructional coach.

Supporting Social & Emotional Learning in Michigan

Michigan has adopted social and emotional learning (SEL) competencies for ages pre- to post-school. Attendees will receive information regarding the SEL competencies, implementation suggestions, and cross walk guidance by age, subject, and school improvement strands.

Resources for selecting Evidence Based Practices

As a rule, using Evidence Based Practices (EBPs) increases positive impact on learners. As federal support increases the use of research and rigor, the session will outline resources for EBP decision making. Attendees will receive a rubric, a clearinghouse for whole child practices, and an overview of how EBPs fit into assessing need and monitoring progress.

Assess Needs: What Does the Data Say?

Assessing needs is a critical process in the continuous improvement cycle, whether as a launching point or as part of on-going monitoring. What are the key phases, actions and questions that are part of this process?

The Art of Engagement

Our lives and jobs are defined by the choices and decisions we make, yet decisions made by educators, impact the lives of others - our students. Join us as we explore the one thing that will dramatically improve student achievement in our schools - ENGAGEMENT! Participants will engage in activities that focus on the key aspects of student engagement educators should be looking for in all students; how to collect data on student engagement; and how that data can be used to spark meaningful conversations that lead to effective classroom instruction.

School Improvement and the Marshall Plan

This session will focus on the new Marshall Plan requirements of Section 380.1277 of the Revised School Code. Participants will learn about the new career and work focused requirements for school improvement plans.

No Limits: Creating a Growth Mindset

Is the nature of your work and leadership style helping you foster growth in your institution? Growth mindset is a crucial component of a student's educational journey and is necessary to be an effective educator and learner in the 21st century. Defining a growth mindset means that both the belief that skills and abilities can be improved and that developing your skills is the purpose of what you do. A culture that fosters a growth mindset provides an environment in which potential is developed, encouraged and rewarded for improvement. This session teaches strategies through interactive activities to increase, not only the growth mindset of the student but that of the educator as well. This workshop will enhance understanding of how a learner's social and emotional development is impacted by the growth of their brains.

Down the Rabbit Hole: Leading in the Knowledge Economy

Sometimes insights can be found in unexpected places. Let's take a classic and much beloved story, Alice in Wonderland. In this classic tale, Alice shares with the Cheshire Cat: "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" said Alice.

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where," said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

Like Alice, if you don't know where you want to go, then you will have a very hard time trying to get there. This session focuses on the essential skills leaders should attain to be effective in the new Knowledge Economy. And don't you worry, in this session, curiosity is celebrated by the Cat (and others)!

Supporting the Implementation of Read by Grade Three Legislation

In this session participants will learn about the components of the Read by Grade Three Legislation. MDE staff will help to connect resources and funding opportunities to the implementation of the law. A simple communication plan and tools available in the new "Michigan's Read by Grade Three Guide" will be shared.

Section 31a - Program Planning for At-Risk Learners

The intent and purposes for Section 31a provide program funding focused on the following student outcomes for At-risk learners: attending school regularly, reading proficiency by the end of 3rd grade, math proficiency by the end of 8th grade, and career and college readiness by high school graduation. This session updates participants on the latest legislative changes within Section 31a, provides guidance for program planning, and explains how evidence-based practices, data analysis, and team-based decision-making ensure positive impact on student achievement.

Family Engagement Strategies that Matter Most

When families, schools, and communities work effectively together, family engagement supports the learning, development, and health of every learner. This session will provide a research overview, family engagement strategies, and a summary of MDE efforts to support programs and schools in supporting families as partners in their child's education.

Mi-STAR: A K-12 / Higher Education Collaboration

Mi-STAR is a middle school curriculum and professional learning program developed in alignment with the new Michigan Science Standards (MSS). Mi-STAR was developed collaboratively by university and K-12 partners with support from private and public foundations. Mi-STAR's curriculum is being used by trained teachers in classrooms around the state, and teachers are reporting positive results. The ongoing collaboration between higher education and K-12 entities make these positive results possible.