MDE Continuous Improvement Conference

"Continuous Improvement: Leveraging Systems, Strategies, and Supports to Impact Outcomes for All Students."

Breakout Session Descriptions

October 19, 2023 – Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn

10:45 a.m. to Noon

#1 Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) 101 – Part 1 (Conference Room A)
Presenters: *Dave Hundt, State and Federal Programs and Continuous Improvement Consultant, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District; Mike Fine, Ottawa Area ISD and Hilda Irani, Dearborn Public Schools*

MICIP is the integrated continuous improvement mindset, process and platform for districts and schools in Michigan. It is meant to help identify needs/assets, write plans to address challenges, and align resources to support funding the plans. These two sessions (back-to-back) are meant for those who are new to the MICIP. Participants will experience the process in the platform with supporting guidance on how to use the tools. **(Part 2 will follow in the next breakout session).**

Primary Audience: School Leadership; District/System Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement

#2 Leveraging Michigan's Strategic STEM Plans for Continuous Improvement (Conference Room B)
Presenters: *D. Scott Heister, MiSTEM Region 2 Director and Science & Engineering Action Area Co-Lead, Washtenaw ISD, Mohon Thomas, Grand Valley State University.*

In partnership with stakeholders from across the state, strategic plans for Science & Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science have been developed to set the vision for STEM education in Michigan. Learn about the local benefits (professional learning, connections, partnerships) from engaging in the plans as part of the continuous improvement process. Leave with an understanding of the vision, the outcomes the plans will accomplish, and pathways for coordinating local funds with regional MiSTEM network funds.

Primary Audience: District System Leadership
Strand: Strategies, Supports

#3 Better Together: Leveraging Strengths and Leaning into Systems to Improve Secondary Teaching and Learning (Conference Room C)
Presenters: *Jenelle Williams, Literacy Consultant, Disciplinary Literacy Task Force Co-Chair, Oakland Schools; Adel C. DiOrio, Associate Superintendent of Instruction, Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, Disciplinary Literacy Task Force Co-Chair and Cherron Ramsey, Cherron Ramsey, Mathematics Consultant, Wayne RESA, Disciplinary Literacy Task Force Co-Chair*

Historically, leaders have found improvement efforts at the middle and high-school levels to be intimidating. How can any leader be an expert in every academic discipline? Presenters argue that this does not have to be the case! We will explore the Essential School-Wide Practices in Disciplinary Literacy to discover how leveraging strengths and aligning efforts, structures, resources, and people create effective learning environments for all secondary students and support instructional shifts to maximize student success.

Primary Audience: School Leadership
Strand: Systems

#4 Strategic Planning and the MICIP Process: Kentwood Public Schools' Journey of an Integrated Approach to Continuous Improvement (Conference Room D)
Presenters: *Sunil Joy, Executive Director of Strategy and Innovation; Andrew Tevlin, District MTSS Coordinator; Veronica Lake, Executive Director of Student Services and Carrie Tellerico, Executive Director of Elementary Education Kentwood Public Schools*

During the 22-23 SY, Kentwood Public Schools engaged in a strategic planning process. Throughout the work, there were several connections to the MICIP plan. This is a district example of how to intentionally align strategic planning and MICIP work into a coherent plan for buildings to execute. The presentation will detail how a broader vision, with stakeholder input, was distilled through the MICIP process into an actionable plan for buildings.

Primary Audience: District/System Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement; Systems

#5 Best Practices for Providing and Supporting Inclusive Books to All Students (Conference Room E)
Presenters: *Alexa Lalejini, District Library Media Specialist, Zeeland Public Schools and Cynthia Zervos, Way Elementary Library Media Specialist, Bloomfield Hills Public Schools*

The Michigan Association of School Librarians (MASL) curates an annual list of inclusive books for Michigan learners called MISelf in Books. The list is selected by a diverse committee of MASL members based on the books that they see learners enjoying and reading in their libraries. The books are school librarian selected and learner approved! Learn how to use the list and how to curate your own inclusive book list and encourage more reading!

Primary Audience: Classroom
Strand: Supports

#6 Integrating Science and Social Studies: Building on Connections (Conference Room F)
Presenters: *Scott Koenig, Social Studies Consultant and Leanne Weber, Science Consultant, Michigan Department of Education*

Join this learning experience to explore how science and social studies can be integrated. You will gain access to resources, unpack and assess local implementation challenges and opportunities, and learn the valuable outcomes linked with integrated practice.

Primary Audience: Classroom
Strand: Systems; Strategies; Supports

#7 Building a Comprehensive School-Based Behavioral Health System (Conference Room G)
Presenter: *Scott Hutchins, School Behavioral Health Unit Supervisor, MDE*

MDE has been working in collaboration with several partners from across the state and nationally to build a comprehensive system to support student behavioral health and wellness. This session will provide an update on the new School Behavioral Health Unit at MDE and its goal to produce a comprehensive framework for how schools can provide sustainable behavioral health services to improve outcomes for all students.

Primary Audience: District/System Leadership
Strand: Supports

#8 Equity: Looking Beyond Proficiency and Averages (Stadium Room – Hotel Lobby)
Presenters: *Joseph Trommater, Director of General Education, and Duncan Gervin, Data and Assessment Coordinator, Clare-Gladwin RESD*

Some patterns only show up when you see them on a map. This session will take participants through mapping their data on a Google Map to answer questions like: Where are the students of choice driving into the district from? Do students in remote areas participate in school activities? Are students who are\are not proficient on benchmarks clustered in certain neighborhoods or regions? Does distance to the school reflect attendance?

Primary Audience: District/System Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement

1:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

#1 Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) 101 – Part 2 (Conference Room A)
Presenters: *Dave Hundt, State and Federal Programs and Continuous Improvement Consultant, Muskegon Area Intermediate School District; Mike Fine, Ottawa Area ISD and Hilda Irani, Dearborn Public Schools*

MICIP is the integrated continuous improvement mindset, process and platform for districts and schools in Michigan. It is meant to help identify needs/assets, write plans to address challenges, and align resources to support funding the plans. These two sessions (back-to-back) are meant for those who are new to the MICIP. Participants will experience the process in the platform with supporting guidance on how to use the tools. **(Part 1 will be in the first breakout session).**

Primary Audience: School Leadership; District/System Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement

#2 Family Engagement Practices with a Trauma-Informed and Chronic Absenteeism Lens (Conference Room B)
Presenters: *Scott Martin, Health Education Consultant; Dawn Carmody, Neglected, Delinquent & At-risk Education Consultant and Al Thomas, Education Consultant, MDE*

In this session, participants will learn about family engagement resources and tools that can support school systems in empowering parents to be engaged and support districts in moving from policy to practice. Background information will be provided to support being trauma-aware and common barriers of attendance that will help ensure that districts parent engagement plans support all students and families.

Primary Audience: School Leadership
Strand: Strategies

#3 Why Balancing Implementation Fidelity and Integrity is Key to Implementation Success (Conference Room C)
Presenters: *Teresa McDougal, HIL School Renewal Coordinator and Facilitator, Grand Rapids Public Schools and Western Michigan University Center for School Renewal and Dr. Patricia Reeves, Emeritus Professor and Co-Director of the WMU Center for School Renewal and Grand Rapids Southeast Promise Neighborhood Grant Project*

Schools embark on implementing tested or promising initiatives with great expectations. Frequently, however, the road to implementation is more complicated and challenging than anticipated. This can compromise implementation and produce disappointing results. Learn how to adopt, implement, and sustain transformative change initiatives for meaningful impact on student success. Discover how schools address both implementation fidelity and integrity to accomplish change that actually takes root and achieves both meaningful student growth and equity in student outcomes.

Primary Audience: District System Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement

#4 Using Evidence from a Balanced Assessment System to Install, Implement, Monitor/Adjust and Evaluate (Conference Room D)
Presenters: *Ellen Vorenkamp, Professional Learning Director, Michigan Assessment Consortium; Jennifer McFarlane, Assistant Superintendent and FAME, Romeo Community Schools and Kristy Walters, District Formative Assessment Coach, Corunna Public Schools/FAME Lead*

Continuous Improvement relies on evidence collected from a district/school's assessment system. If that system is out of balance, it can't provide information that gives a complete picture of teaching and learning. Learn how to develop balance using second order change and a strategy implementation guide.
Explore these questions:
What is a balanced assessment system?
What is the Formative Assessment Process and how does it help create balance?
Why should systems engage in this work?
How do we develop a BAS?

Primary Audience: District/System Leadership
Strand: Systems

#5 Michigan Department of Education LETRS Grant Success Story (Conference Room E)
Presenters: *Kellie Flaminio, Early Literacy Grant Coordinator, Office of Educational Supports, Literacy Unit, MDE and Brandie Turner, State Professional Learning Solutions Account Executive, Lexia Learning*

This session will begin by discussing "What is LETRS," "What LETRS teaches" and "How LETRS teaches." With a deeper understanding of the LETRS professional learning, we will share how this aligns to the Michigan State professional learning goals and how this professional learning opportunity has impacted educators in one local school district!

Primary Audience: Classroom
Strand: Continuous Improvement

#6 Humanizing Continuous Improvement: Learning and Leading Through Job-Embedded Leader Labs (Conference Room F)
Presenters: *Samantha Keesling, Mathematics Consultant – Leadership and Continuous Improvement and Megan Kortlandt, Literacy Consultant- Leadership and Continuous Improvement*

In this session, facilitators will share how they worked with eleven local school districts to humanize the MICIP process by considering a wider definition of data in order to hear all voices and respond more equitably. Learn how they were able to shift meetings to a job-embedded learning structure and engage district leadership teams in cycles of inquiry as they worked together to understand and respond to the needs of the district.

Primary Audience: District/System Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement

#7 Team Selection: The Foundation of Sustainability in Leadership (Conference Room G)
Presenters: *Dr. Jennifer Sell, Executive Director, Statewide Field Team, Heather Stanley, Director and Rachel Feder, Implementation and Improvement Coordinator Statewide Field Team, Calhoun ISD*

So often we can name the who on a team, but naming their functions is another matter. In this session, we will explore team formation and help determine if you are in need of a new team or need to repurpose an existing team. If our collective goal is sustainability in education, this session will help you set any team up for success by sharing implementation science resources and tools used to develop a team.

Primary Audience: District/System Leadership
Strand: Strategies

#8 An Evidence-Based System That Supports Positive Outcomes for All Students (Stadium Room – Hotel Lobby)
Presenter: *Liesel Carlson, MDE Partnership Liaison (PAL), MDE and Ingham ISD Consultant; Shelley Ruh, Director of Student Instructional Services IISD;* Kelly Trout Data and Systems Analyst IISD; Jen McCloud MTSS and Continuous Improvement Consultant IISD; Teddy Simmons III Systems Coordinator MAISA.

Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan Goal 5 is to "Increase the percentage of all students who graduate from high school." The Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring System (EWIMS) is an evidence-based, data-driven decision-making process that can be leveraged as part of a local school district's secondary school Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework to identify barriers to student success and implement systemic measures to support students in graduating.

Primary Audience: District System Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement; Systems; Strategies; Supports

2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#1 Root Cause Analysis -- An Integrated Approach (Conference Room A)
Presenter: *Jan Callis, State and Federal Programs Consultant, Oakland Schools*

Participants will learn about and practice an approach to root cause analysis that integrates the "5 Whys" and "fishbone" protocols with logic modeling. The process allows teams to see the relationship between the results they are getting and the underlying factors that could be causing or contributing to those results. After studying data to confirm or refute their hypotheses, teams can make informed decisions about how to replicate desired results or address areas of need.

Primary Audience: District/System Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement

#2 Leveraging MICIP as a Tool to Implement the Essential Instructional Practices in Literacy (Conference Room B)
Presenters: *Michelle Goaley, Instructional Services Director and ELTF Co-Chair, BAISD and Shellie Gohl, Instructional Services Director and ELTF Co-Chair, AMA*

The outcome of the session is to understand how to use MICIP to implement sustainable systems for improving literacy instruction.

Primary Audience: School Leadership so that they may influence their district level leadership.

Strand: System; Strategies

#3 From the School Bus to the School Board: School-Wide Policies and Best Practices to Support LGBTQ+ Students (Conference Room C) **THIS SESSION WILL NOT BE LIVE STREAMED**
Presenters: *Laurie Bechhofer, HIV/STD Education Consultant and Kim Phillips-Knope, LGBTQ Students Project Lead, MDE*

In this interactive workshop, we explored the macro-level systems and structures that can unintentionally create unsafe learning environments for LGBTQ+ students as well as policies and best practices that help all student thrive. Participants will discuss the importance of getting school staff on the same page when it comes to implementing anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies, curriculum inclusion, media centers, names and pronouns, bathrooms and locker rooms, and working with families of LGBTQ+ students.

Primary Audience: District/System Leadership
Strand: Strategies; Supports

#4 Connecting MICIP, MISchoolData, and Continuous Improvement (Conference Room D)
Presenters: *Kristina Martin, Director of Management Technology; Dr. Rhonda Provoast, Education Consultant, Macomb ISD and Kathy Miller, Executive Director, Instructional Services & Secondary Options, Shiawassee RESD*

Whether you are new to the MISchoolData portal, or an experienced MICIP user and data analyst, this session will share technical updates and tips for gathering continuous improvement data. Take a deep dive into the K12 menu with State Assessments, Career and College Readiness, the new Special Education Dashboard, or CTE-workforce-postsecondary data sets. Find out how to harness the power of the MISchoolData to make connections to the MICIP platform. Session presenters will share a variety of resources and templates available in the PD Toolkit and beyond.

Primary Audience: Classroom
Strand: Strategies

#5 Integrating Technology Across the Continuous Improvement Process (Conference Room E)
Presenters: *Carol Ann Paul, Manager of State & Federal Programs, and Special Populations, Wayne RESA; Ashara Shepard-Lance, Educational Improvement Consultant at Wayne RESA and Kai Smith, Educational Improvement Consultant at Wayne RESA*

During this session, we will explore a variety of technological tools that can help enhance our work. Our presentation will be in an engaging "tech shootout" style. We will cover topics such as crafting a digital narrative for school improvement, creating insightful infographics for effective communication, and using AI ethically to convey messages, distill data, and improve facilitation and efficiency. This is an opportunity to extend your learning and share preferred tech solutions to advance continuous improvement.

Primary Audience: School Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement

#6 Moving Toward a Systems Focus for Continuous Improvement (Conference Room F)
Presenters: *Jonathon Good, Continuous Improvement Consultant; Mathematics Education Consultant and Jennifer Curtis, Mathematics Education Consultant, Oakland Schools*

Oakland Schools ISD consultants will share their experiences and lessons learned while facilitating a professional learning series designed to support district and school teams as they developed or revised

improvement plans with the purpose of incorporating a system goal. A multi-disciplinary team approach yielded positive results with our participants, particularly in how they perceived the value of engaging in an authentic continuous improvement process. Attendees can expect discussion around our experiences, advice in serving districts and schools, and sharing with fellow attendees.

Primary Audience: District System Leadership
Strand: Systems

#7 Diverse Classroom Libraries: Mirrors, Windows, & Sliding Doors to Lifelong Literacy (Conference Room G)
Presenters: *Jen Saylor, Assistant Director, OES; Rane Garcia, Director, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, MDE, and Amy Colton, Michigan co-coordinator Region 8 Comprehensive Center*

Based on guidance developed by the Michigan Department of Education in collaboration with the Region 8 Comprehensive Center, the presentation will provide resources, tools, and opportunities for self-reflection to guide thinking about diversity in literature and the impact on literacy learning. The presentation addresses what, why, and how of providing diverse literature to support identities often underrepresented in classroom libraries, including those from different ethnicities, religions, who speak different languages, and have different abilities.

Primary Audience: School Leadership
Strand: Continuous Improvement; Systems; Strategies; Supports

#8 Best Practices in Grading (Stadium Room – Hotel Lobby)
Presenters: *Ruth Anne Hodges, Supervisor, Education Experiences Unit and Stephen Nemeckay, Alternative Education Consultant, MDE*

Grades should convey the students' knowledge and skills. Presenters will share the practices that districts focused on student learning should implement when it comes to designing grading policies. A discussion of common practices that should be discontinued will also be included.

Primary Audience: District/System Leadership
Strand: Systems