



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT
OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 2, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Jeremy M. Hughes, Ph.D., Chairman

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding the Department of Education Activities in Response to the Cherry Commission Recommendations

Lieutenant Governor John Cherry presented at the April State Board of Education meeting, sharing his thoughts on the recommendations of the Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. The Lt. Governor encouraged the Michigan Department of Education and the State Board to use all authority available to accomplish the goals and enact the recommendations.

Our Department is in the process of hiring a high school redesign consultant to facilitate communication among the various stakeholders and to coordinate the activities in the Department. A plan has been developed for the Michigan High School Initiative (MHSI), which is detailed in the attached materials. The MHSI will build upon the research that has resulted from earlier work of the ad hoc MDE High School Redesign team. Because of the urgency of this project and the cross-office nature of the work, the project will reside with the Chief Academic Officer for the time being.

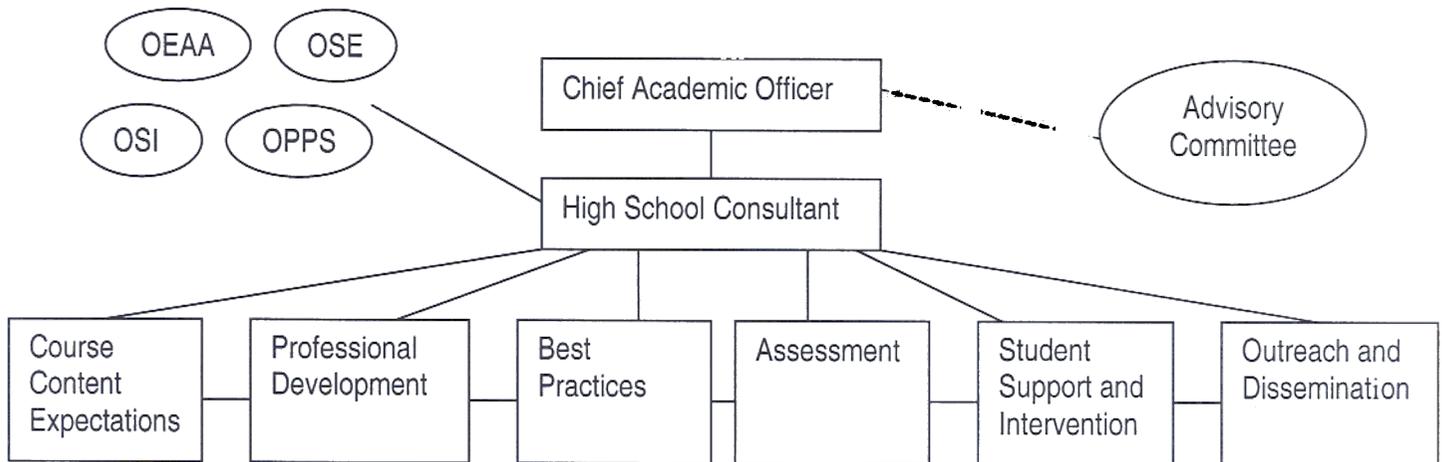
We welcome your thoughts and involvement as the MHSI develops.

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Michigan High School Initiative Michigan Department of Education Role



Michigan High School Initiative

The Michigan High School Initiative (MHSI) will be created, building off the excellent work of the Michigan Department of Education High School Redesign Team, incorporating the Cherry Commission Report on Higher Education, and targeted at providing Michigan's high schools with the technical assistance and support needed to succeed. The MHSI will center on three main goals:

1. Develop high school course curriculum content expectations.
2. Develop the Michigan Merit assessment exam.
3. Identify, promulgate, and disseminate best practices.

The Chief Academic Officer and High School Consultant will coordinate the Initiative, including six Action Teams and a MHSI Advisory Committee.

Action Teams

The MHSI will have six Action Teams designed to target specific aspects of high school improvement.

The Action Teams with core activities listed are:

Course Content Expectations

Chair: Yvonne Canul - OSI

- Identify and recommend a sequence of high school courses in Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies that would lead to a rigorous high school learning experience.

- Identify course content expectations for Mathematics and English Language Arts initially, followed by Science and Social Studies.

Professional Development

Chair: Flora Jenkins - OPP

- Identify and promote meaningful Professional Development activities for schools, teachers, and administrators.
- Initiate workshops and learning opportunities centered on the use of classroom-based, data-driven curriculum and instruction in conjunction with regional partners and professional associations.
- Analyze current teacher preparation requirements and certification to determine the appropriateness to today's schools and students, and make recommendations to higher education for improvement.

Best Practices

Chair: Pat Meaux - OSI

- Identify, promulgate, and disseminate high school redesign best practices.
- Research various high school reform models and benchmark practices from other districts, states, and countries.
- Create a resource network for schools, districts, businesses, and communities to share information gathered.

Assessment

Chair: Ed Roeber - EAA

- Develop and administer the Michigan Merit Exam.
- Develop end-of-course exams.
- Develop classroom-based assessments to support student learning.

Student Support and Intervention

Chair: Fran Loose – OSE

- Research, review, report and promote research-based interventions and supports for students, including students with disabilities, dropouts, those in danger of dropping out and other marginalized students.
- Promote the principles of Universal Education opportunities and programming for students, as appropriate.

Outreach and Dissemination

*Chair: Ryan Donlan – Superintendent,
Bay Arenac Community High School*

- Develop a dissemination plan that targets schools, higher education, businesses, and the community, relaying the message for the need of high school redesign and the various ways in which reform can take place.
- Hold conferences, meetings, and summits to disseminate information and resources on high school redesign.
- Create a brochure to be distributed among schools, businesses, organizations, parents, and communities, outlining MDE's High School Initiative.
- Create a high school redesign page on MDE's webpage. This page will include information on best practices, professional development activities, available grants, education resources and partners, updates on Course Content Expectations and merit exam, etc.

Advisory Committee

In addition to the six Action Teams, an Advisory Committee will be created with the purpose of advising on the scope of the High School Initiative. The Advisory Committee will receive, review, and advise on the various activities of the Action Teams via regular meetings. By creating and incorporating an Advisory Committee into the Initiative, MDE can ensure that stakeholders have a role and voice in our improvement efforts. Not only will the stakeholders provide the Action Teams with invaluable insights, but by including outside organizations, MDE will have additional outlets to relay the message of high school improvement. To handle the start-up activities, the Advisory Committee will initially convene bi-monthly before moving to quarterly meetings. The High School Consultant will serve as the liaison between the Department and the Advisory Committee.

Following is an initial list of organizations that will be invited to participate on the Advisory Committee:

The Cherry Commission
The State Board of Education
Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
Michigan Alternative Education Organization
Michigan Association of Public School Academies
Michigan Business Leaders for Excellent Education
Michigan Education Association
Michigan Federation of Teachers
Middle Cities Education Association
Presidents Council
Michigan Community College Association
Michigan Association of School Administrators
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth – Career and Technical Education
Parent Teacher Student Association
North Central Association
Michigan Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development
Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District
Michigan School Counselor Association
Great Lakes Colleges Association