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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

DATE: October 29, 2007

SUBJECT: Presentation on the Statewide System of Support for High Priority Schools

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation required states to develop a statewide system of support for high priority schools. Michigan has implemented the statewide system of support and annually revises the system to strengthen its impact on improved student achievement. This year additional changes were made to the scope and intensity of support to include expanded responsibilities and new partners working to impact student achievement.

The partnership with intermediate school districts (ISDs) and the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Districts expands the capacity of MDE to work with local districts assisting schools that are identified for improvement. The ISDs are funded to hire mentors and leadership coaches to assist high priority school principals. Michigan State University conducts the professional development for coaches and a principal fellowship to support instructional leadership in all high priority schools. The School Improvement Facilitators Network and the Michigan Association of State and Federal Program Specialists are training the mentors. Advanced Ed/NCA, another partner, is training and orchestrating the academic audits.

Each of these components uses the Michigan School Improvement Framework to guide and organize activities, bring coherence, focus and consistency to the state system of supports.

Individual Title I schools identified for improvement in phases 3 or higher will continue to receive school improvement funding to impact the academic area that caused the school to be identified for improvement. The improved instructional component promises to impact academic achievement for all students.

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The changes to the statewide system of support for high priority schools further emphasize the importance of high academic standards and support to students in Michigan struggling to meet these standards. Statewide support ensures that the students experiencing the greatest difficulty are provided additional resources to meet the challenges of the 21st century.