

Tool 2

Overarching Questions Worksheet

School Name:	
Date of Visit	

What school-wide instructional strategies is the school implementing?

What strategies are teachers expected to use? What practices are students expected to use? What is the curriculum that is being taught? What proportion of teachers is using the instructional program? How have teachers incorporated the instructional program into their practice? To what extent is the school focused on the implementation and impact of its instructional program?

What professional learning opportunities are the school and district providing?

To what extent does the use of professional time reflect a limited number of instructional priorities? How are the professional learning needs of staff determined? How clearly are professional learning activities linked to the instructional program? How does the district support professional learning and to what extent is it aligned with the school's instructional program?

How are the school and district monitoring the implementation and impact of the instructional program?

What data on teachers' implementation of the instructional program are collected, analyzed and used? How do school and district leaders use this data? What proportion is engaged in the collaborative analysis of individual student data? How is this work supported and monitored? What has been learned through these efforts? What data on student learning are collected, analyzed and used?

[Empty dashed box for response]

Are the supports the school receives from the district, MI Excel partners, and other providers adequate and reflect identified needs?

What supports do the various providers offer the school? How is it determined what supports are provided? What additional support would improve the quality and effectiveness of plan implementation? How is the effectiveness of external supports assessed? What is the relative emphasis placed on providing versus building capacity?

[Empty dashed box for response]

Are SIG funds being used in ways consistent with the school's approved SIG application?

Is the school spending SIG funds on what it proposed? Why or why not? What, if any, difficulties are the school facing in the spending the grant funds in the manner or timeframe specified in the grant? What, if any barriers exist at the school level? Identify the specific policies or procedures that are causing difficulties. What, if any barriers exist at the district level? Identify the specific policies or procedures that are causing difficulties. Is the school allowed sufficient operational flexibility to identify, select, and implement programs and services tied to data-based needs? Is extended learning time being implemented in a manner consistent with the approved SIG application? How is the school assessing/evaluating the effectiveness of how SIG resources are used? What needs do school leaders anticipate for next year that may differ from what they are using funds for now? What aspects of the work will continue after the grant ends? What work has the school and district begun to sustain the work when the grant ends? Has the school or district identified any early successes with SIG programs that are likely to sustain long-term student achievement? Does/will the district support the continuation of SIG funded programs that have demonstrated a positive effect on student achievement? What evidence exists to document this commitment?

[Empty dashed box for response]