



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


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INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 2019

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Dr. Scott M. Koenigs knecht, Deputy Superintendent 
P-20 System and Student Transitions

SUBJECT: Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Update

As part of the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Top 10 in 10 strategic plan, the MDE is working to ensure that students access effective practices and educators can successfully use a comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). As the MDE MTSS leadership team engages in strategic planning for the expansion and scale-up of MTSS in our State, the MDE wanted to provide an update about the MTSS effort.

MDE executive leadership selected MTSS using statewide data as a priority effort in 2016. Specifically, within the MDE's strategic plan, goal 2: implement high-quality instruction in every classroom, strategy 2.2: establish and implement with fidelity a high-quality multi-tiered system of supports, helps to define the rationale that surrounds this work. The MDE MTSS framework provides schools and districts with an efficient way to support all learners with effective practices and resources so that they can succeed.

To accomplish this goal, a team of MDE staff and external stakeholders including Intermediate School District (ISD) / Regional Education Service Agencies (RESA) staff and Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) staff was brought together to ensure the MDE has a collaboratively built understanding of MTSS. The resulting end product of that work was the [MDE MTSS Practice Profile](#), which has been and continues to be used to guide identification and development of necessary supports and resources within ISDs/RESAs, LEAs, and schools in the Transformation Zone (TZ).

Using a continuous improvement model for the development and identification of MTSS supports and resources, the MDE partnered with Saginaw ISD and Lenawee ISD to form the MDE TZ.

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Learnings from the work in the TZ as well as other MDE work in relation to MTSS continue to inform improvements and identify areas needed for alignment and coherence. Saginaw and Lenawee ISDs and their respective participating districts are invaluable partners in engaging this systemic change effort to ensure MDE has an effective infrastructure to support sustained use and scaling of MTSS.

The MDE MTSS Leadership Team is leveraging the current work and opportunities to plan for the expansion and scale-up of MTSS in our State. The first of these is the work to support the [expansion of positive behavior strategies](#). Initiated by the Special Education Reform Task Force and funded through the School Aid Act (Sec. 54b), this Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) ISD project provides resources to develop, enhance, or expand statewide systems of support by providing technical assistance to ISDs and constituent schools implementing PBIS and more broadly, MTSS. Technical assistance for this project has been delivered through the Michigan Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative (MIBLSI), working on behalf the MDE. Five (5) additional MDE MTSS Regional Consultants will be added to support the work of the MTSS scale-up with an anticipated start date of June 1, 2019. The MDE is currently working with select ISDs to host these regional consultants within their ISDs.

Using learnings from the pilot implementation of the PBIS ISD project, the TZ as well as other MDE efforts, the MDE MTSS Leadership team will be leveraging the expansion of this PBIS ISD project. The scale up of MTSS will require a comprehensive, differentiated approach. Thus, this ISD PBIS project will be one avenue of providing resources and supports within a tiered approach to initially support district implementation of MTSS and PBIS. In this year's cohort, five (5) ISDs applied and were chosen for intense technical assistance around PBIS. They include Allegan Area Educational Service Agency, Calhoun ISD, Jackson County ISD, Lenawee ISD, and Muskegon Area ISD. The implementation plan is currently under development and the MDE MTSS Regional Consultants will be an integral part of the implementation support, in addition to scaling-up in other ISDs.

There will be future opportunities to participate in the scale-up plan of MTSS. MDE will continue to support current participants with future applications for participation each year. The planning and work of scaling up does not alter the timeline or the current agreements with the MDE TZ partners.

If you have any questions regarding the MDE MTSS Implementation and Scale-up, please contact Mindy Westra at WestraA@michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance