



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

SHEILA A. ALLES  
INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 11, 2018

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Local Educational Agency Principals

**FROM:** Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D., Deputy Superintendent   
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports

**SUBJECT:** Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Fall School Improvement  
Conference: *Continuously Improving to Support Learning and Learners*

**Save the date for the Fall 2018 MDE School Improvement Conference,**  
*Continuously Improving to Support Learning and Learners*, November 19-20, 2018  
Lansing Center, Lansing, MI.

Day One – Featured Topics • Continuous Improvement Theory of Action • Continuous  
Improvement Process • Assessing Needs • Systems • Consolidated Application

Day Two – Two half-day sessions

Session 1 - Understanding the needs of each student is an essential component of high quality differentiated instruction. Formative assessment as part of a balanced assessment system is one of the keys to that understanding. This is critical for all students, including those who come from poverty. Keynote Speaker LeAnn Nickelsen, M.Ed. continues this theme from past years as she addresses how much formative assessment can change a classroom, grade level, or an entire school and district!

Session 2 – What are the components of a high-quality system? What is meant by systemic thinking? What is necessary to move from isolated thinking to systemic thinking? Participants will dig more deeply into this topic in a facilitated session that will also feature testimonials from schools and districts that are successfully implementing systemic thinking.

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For conference details and registration visit [Fall 2018 MDE School Improvement Conference](#).

If you have specific questions pertaining to this conference, please contact Diane Joslin-Gould at [Joslin-GouldD@michigan.gov](mailto:Joslin-GouldD@michigan.gov). Conference registration and information is available through the Michigan Association of School Administrators (MASA) website at [www.gomasa.org](http://www.gomasa.org).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance