

For more information visit: [www.michigan.gov/mde-micip](http://www.michigan.gov/mde-micip)

## SSoS Survey Indicates Strong Support for MICIP

As part of its efforts to gather feedback and input on assistance to districts and schools identified for additional supports, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Statewide System of Support (SSoS) conducts an annual survey through Basis Quality Research. The 2021 survey included questions about the extent to which MICIP impacted the continuous improvement process for those districts and schools. Researchers distributed survey invitations to 122 district administrators and ISD/ESA personnel supporting SSoS schools, with a return rate of 57% (N=70). Results included the following:

- 90% of stakeholders believe that MICIP will contribute to improved student outcomes.
- 82% of stakeholders believed that MICIP improved the districts' approach to supporting continuous improvement.
- 90% of stakeholders agreed that MICIP helped continuous improvement teams effectively engage in defining measurable goals, assess needs, and select target measures while slightly fewer agreed that MICIP helped teams effectively focus on the whole child (87%) and selecting strategies (75%).

In some instances, results varied slightly between district and ISD personnel, with ISD personnel being more likely to agree that MICIP improved districts' approach to supporting continuous improvement and will eventually improve student outcomes and district personnel being more likely to agree that MICIP helped teams effectively engage in assess needs, selecting target measures, focusing on the whole child, and selecting strategies.

Researchers also analyzed open-ended responses to identify factors that influenced satisfaction with MICIP. Findings included the following:

- Several stakeholders from both groups commented on MICIP changing how continuous improvement teams analyze and discuss data, including prompting district teams to address

**90%**  
of stakeholders believe  
that MICIP will  
**improve  
student  
outcomes**



needs most critical to the school rather than what is feasible to address with available funds. Comments included, "We now look at our needs first instead of determining how much money we have to address the myriad of issues impacting teaching and learning" and "I believe that the mindset of needs, will lead to districts focusing [funds] more on needs and aligning funding to meet those needs rather than looking at fund allowability and creating a plan to use those funds."

- The local consumption of data is also more intentionally focused on equity, the whole child, and systems components...Consequently, some district improvement teams are “using data in better ways than we have in the past.” The improved approach to analyzing data has “shifted conversations regarding systems, whole child, and equity...and allowed [our district] to have tough conversations around student learning, our curriculum, our processes, our leadership, our teaching and learning, and our assessments.”
- In addition, MICIP has contributed to an improved focus on root cause analysis, creating opportunities to consider the “why” behind student achievement. “Digging deep into root causes has helped our team make better decisions on what the district needs to help our students be successful.”

Surveys indicated how MICIP contributed to shifting mindsets on equity and needs-plans-funds as well as the inclusion of additional stakeholders in the continuous improvement process. As one district administrator commented, “In the past, school improvement was completed by a few individuals, but now all stakeholders are involved in some way.”

Respondents also noted the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on MICIP, including staff capacity to fully use MICIP and having other district priorities during this time. Despite the pandemic, most participants expressed considerable optimism for its potential to drive student outcomes. At the same time, they expressed caution about perceiving MICIP as a compliance activity, noting that doing so could impede fidelity of implementation as well as achieving the desired impact.

While MDE is pleased overall with these initial results, we also intend to use this information to improve MICIP, including the stakeholder experience with MiStrategyBank as well as the focus on the whole child. MDE continues to welcome comments about MICIP from all stakeholders at [mde-micip@michigan.gov](mailto:mde-micip@michigan.gov).

(Information above taken from the 2021 Statewide System of Support Annual Survey Report from Basis Quality Research, Grand Rapids, MI.)

