



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

May 2018

Dear Educator:

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is working hard to address the strategic plan to make Michigan a Top 10 Education State in 10 Years. A key strategy in this work involves the development of an effective and comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). To best support the implementation of MTSS, it is essential to have a shared understanding of what it is.

Recently, a team comprised of educators, leaders, and researchers from Michigan schools, districts, intermediate school districts (ISDs), the MDE, and universities engaged in a systematic process to define MTSS. Specifically, a document called a Practice Profile was created that describes the MTSS philosophy, research base and the essential components necessary for implementation. Over a hundred individuals have contributed to creating MDE's MTSS Practice Profile by engaging in the activities of reviewing current legislation and policy documents, conducting a review of the research literature and other state's guidance, and/or participating in small group interviews.

It is important to note that the Practice Profile identifies the essential components crucial for accurate and successful implementation of MTSS: Team-Based Leadership; Tiered Delivery System; Selection and Implementation of Instruction, Interventions and Supports; Comprehensive Screening & Assessment System; and Continuous Data-Based Decision-Making. The purpose of the MTSS practice profile is to guide the development of the supports and resources (e.g., professional learning, technical assistance) necessary to ensure that the essential components of MTSS are happening as intended. Meanwhile, it is also necessary to contextualize these essential features to fit the needs of the learners, staff and the capacity of the schools, LEAs and ISDs.

The MDE will work to provide resources and supports to further local MTSS efforts and ensure that educators have the needed skills and information to implement MTSS with integrity. As we assess the Practice Profile for its utility and effectiveness through usability testing, the MTSS Practice Profile will be continuously improved based on this data. Through such intentional and ongoing efforts for quality assurance we will continue to make gains towards becoming a Top 10 Education State in 10 Years.

You can download the MDE MTSS Practice Profile and supporting guidance from https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_65803_86454---,00.html

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila A. Alles".

Sheila A. Alles
Chief Deputy Superintendent

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