

Transformation Zone

A Sneak Peek into the Transformation Zone

The Michigan Department of Education entered a Transformation Zone in 2016, forming a partnership with Intermediate School Districts of Ingham, Lenawee, and Saginaw. With support from the State Implementation and Scaling-up of Evidence-based Practices (SISEP) Center, MDE set out to build implementation science capacity to develop an implementation infrastructure to support the effective use of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).

A Transformation Zone represents a vertical slice of the system from the practice level to the policy level. The entities (e.g. ISDs, districts, schools, classrooms) are representative of the larger system. Transformation Zone work is designed not only to improve instructional and innovation practices, but is a purposeful approach to developing a sustainable, replicable, and effective infrastructure. By making changes in a defined Transformation Zone, leaders have the opportunity to develop the system as they want it to be; and how the system will function in the future. The Transformation Zone provides the opportunity to align system components to support the new way and work.

A Transformation Zone provides the opportunity to develop implementation science capacity and understand the implementation infrastructure needed to support the selection, training, coaching, and fidelity assessment of individuals who will be implementing new ways of work. Organizations need to understand what is required to support and sustain change over time and across staff so that the innovation can be used beyond the first cohorts in the Transformation Zone and beyond the Transformation Zone on the way to full scale-up.

An MDE Transformation Zone final report is being developed that will highlight accomplishments and lessons learned within this work.