



MiMTSS Newsletter

Michigan's Multi-Tiered System of Supports

January-February 2021
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Welcome to the third edition of the MiMTSS newsletter. Each edition keeps you informed about Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) efforts to support effective implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). Regular features include the MDE MTSS Practice Profile, the five essential components of MTSS, frequently asked questions, stories from the field, helpful tools, tips, and more. Please share this newsletter and subscribe at [MDE Email Lists](#), so you do not miss an edition.

MDE MTSS Practice Profile 5.0 Essential Components

Each issue of the MiMTSS Newsletter highlights an essential component of the MDE MTSS Practice Profile 5.0. This edition focuses on two components: Team-Based Leadership and Tiered Delivery System. The Lenawee ISD Regional Implementation Team (RIT) shares their implementation experience with these two components in *Stories from the Field*.

Team-Based Leadership

For sound, sustainable MTSS aligned with the broader education system, it is key for districts to have an active, organized, knowledgeable and representative group that provides whole child supports, removes barriers, coordinates, and evaluates activities. This leaves districts better able to align and connect their entire education systems. Interconnected education systems, in turn, create sustainable, scalable, and engaging school climates that ensure MTSS is successfully implemented. It is essential that the district-level team:

- has authority and responsibility to fully implement MTSS district wide.

Team-Based Leadership (Continued)

- represents all district stakeholders.
- demonstrates commitment to professional learning.
- maintains a solid and effective communication plan.
- addresses internal and external barriers to MTSS implementation.

Tiered Delivery System

A district's MTSS includes a responsive framework that provides research-based instruction, interventions, and supports intended to meet the needs and assets of the whole child. Based on an aligned curriculum, the instructional practices, interventions, and supports are organized along a continuum to meet the needs of each learner. The Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 supports are layered, intensified, and build upon each other to meet each learner's needs. The essential features of this tiered-delivery framework include:

- defined data, systems, and practices for Tiers 1, 2, and 3 aligned within the district;
- equitably allocated resources;
- guidance and direction to all educators on how to best differentiate instruction;
- an established process to provide learners access to interventions;
- specific intervention guidance;
- professional learning that is monitored for impactful implementation of data, systems, and practices at each tier; and
- meaningful engagement with families in implementation of MTSS.

Stories from the Field

Lenawee ISD (LISD) MTSS Academy: Team-Based Leadership and Tiered Delivery System

As a result of interest from non-participating Transformation Zone districts, the LISD Regional Implementation Team (RIT) established an MTSS Academy with the following goals:

1. Develop common language throughout the county regarding MTSS;
2. Introduce the Initiative Inventory, Hexagon Tool, and Implementation Planning Tool; and
3. Inform the mutual selection process for a second cohort

In January 2020, eight districts participated in an introductory meeting outlining the LISD's MTSS Academy series. Each session of the series included review/new learning early and optional work time later when LISD RIT facilitated districts' homework and planning. In between sessions, RIT members coached District Implementation Teams (DIT) through their homework. State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) were available for all interactions with LISD RIT members.

The first official session (February 2020) of the series focused on Team-Based Leadership. All eight participating districts had personnel in attendance, and several had entire DITs present. The content for this session included best practices in team membership, an introduction to the Initiative Inventory, and the start of an MTSS elevator speech. Homework for the next session included:

- Naming an MTSS coordinator
- Drafting a DIT roster
- Drafting a district Initiative Inventory
- Completing an elevator speech

Lenawee ISD (LISD) MTSS Academy (Continued)

Due to COVID-19, the second session was postponed until June 2020 and conducted virtually. Each district shared its elevator speech and insights from the Initiative Inventory work. New learning included an introduction to the Hexagon Tool-

As COVID and Extended Continuity of Learning Plan work took the lead in many districts, a third session on the Tiered Delivery System was not feasible. In its place, the LISD RIT surveyed all attendees regarding how their District/Building's Tiered Delivery System was structured and whether it has been successful. Participants saw a video highlighting the MTSS Practice Profile section on Tiered Delivery Systems. The DITs then invited an LISD RIT member to their next meeting to coach them through a discussion regarding Tiered Delivery Systems. Once again, LISD was able to offer SCECHs for all contact time.



Want to share an experience with MTSS implementation, an MTSS accomplishment, or MTSS challenge that has been overcome? Submit your story by filling out the [Google form](#).

News to Know

MTSS Supports for Michigan's Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP)

New resources are available on the [MiMTSS TA Center's MICIP webpage](#) to help districts capture their MTSS work within the MICIP Platform. This ensures that continuous improvement of MTSS remains a district-wide priority. Also, resources are available for districts using the MiMTSS TA Center's District Data Review worksheets and for any Michigan district building an MTSS Framework.

MiMTSS Technical Assistance Center Implementation Resources

Resources from Previous Educator Webinars

Webinar recordings and materials from the Continued Supports for Educators series consists of four webinars designed to provide educators with strategies and practices supporting in-person and remote instruction. The series was held in November and December 2020 and is available in the [Presentations](#) section of the MiMTSS TA Center website. Each of the four webinars features a national speaker. Resources for administrators and school leadership teams were created for each session to extend learning and support implementation of the topic. Videos can be quickly accessed on the [MiMTSS TA Center's YouTube Channel](#).