



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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INTERIM STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 9, 2018

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Local Education Agency Principals
Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Sheila A. Alles 
Interim State Superintendent

SUBJECT: Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Practice Profile

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 of Goal 2 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 create MDE's MTSS Practice Profile reviewing current legislation and policy documents, research literature and other state's guidance, and/or participating in small group interviews.

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 local capacity of the schools, LEAs and ISDs. 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

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- Comprehensive Screening & Assessment System
- Continuous Data-Based Decision-Making

The MDE is working 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 in the Transformation Zones, the MTSS Practice Profile will be continuously improved based on this data. Through 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 MTSS Practice Profile and supporting guidance from michigan.gov/MTSS. Should you need further assistance, please contact our State Transformation Assistant Administrators, Elizabeth Newell (newelle@michigan.gov) or Arminda Westra (westraa@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance