

Multi-Tiered System of Support Transformation Zone

Hello! My name is Mark Haag, Superintendent of the Lenawee Intermediate School District. I would like to provide you with a brief update on a project that the LISD is working on in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Education.

Lenawee ISD has entered into a “Transformation Zone” project with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and the State Implementation and Scaling-up of Evidence-based Practices (SISEP) Center. A Transformation Zone is developing infrastructure to change the educational system. Two Lenawee School Districts (Clinton Community Schools and Onsted Community Schools), have been selected to participate in the Transformation Zone focusing on a general education initiative Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). MTSS strives to meet the needs of whole child.

Pilots often don't lead to sustainable practice and system change. The Transformation Zone will use implementation science to establish simultaneously MTSS and develop implementation infrastructure to assure effective use of MTSS and other initiatives. Typically in a pilot you start with an existing system and adapt the effective practices to fit it. In a Transformation Zone the existing system is changed to support the effective practices.

Participating in this Transformation Zone will increase the capacity of local school district/LISD/MDE staff in providing all students with quality tiered instruction while developing systems that can be replicated elsewhere.

This initiative ties to the Michigan Top 10 in 10 goal #7 “Further develop an innovative and cohesive state education agency that supports an aligned, coherent education system at all levels (state, ISD, district and school)”. It is exciting that the LISD is in the forefront of this work in improving education in Michigan.

What this work could mean for all participating schools and students are the following:

1. A focus on the “whole child” including more attention to social/emotional factors and possibly Positive Behavior Systems.
2. Systematic implementation of instructional coaching models and fidelity checks to include strong instructional best practices in all classrooms
3. A committed use of data to make decisions rather than assumptions at the classroom and school level.
4. Effective and ongoing supports for educators, with an emphasis on providing a narrower focus. “Doing less things better”, and not changing practices and programs without full implementation.
5. A system that fosters family involvement and community engagement at all levels.

Our work will continue with MDE as we begin to build training and infrastructure around the new MTSS model. This will include things like instructional coaching and fidelity checks to ensure the practices are being implemented properly and fully by all involved.

We hope to provide you more updates on our progress along with specific examples from classrooms and communities in the near future.

If you would like more information feel free to contact me at mark.haag@lisd.us or 517-265-1628