

Statewide System of Support



MERA
April 30, 2013

Turn and Talk

- What experience have you had with Priority and/or Focus Schools?
- From what you know, how have these schools received support that addresses their needs?

Flexibility Waiver Request

- In October 2011, President Obama gave states the opportunity to apply for waivers from ESEA – what we called **No Child Left Behind**
- Michigan's ESEA Flexibility Waiver was approved in July 2012



Title I Identification for SSoS

- Identify Year One
- Identify Year Two
- Correct
- Re-
- Restructuring – Implemented

New Identifications for Title I Schools

- Priority Schools (*Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools on the Top to Bottom List*)
- Focus Schools (*Schools with the largest achievement gaps*)
- Reward Schools (*Schools that have significantly closed gaps, significantly improved, or are beating the odds*)

MI Excel SSoS Services

- Priority Schools
- Focus Schools



School Reform Office

- The SRO is ultimately responsible for all Priority Schools
 - Provide all training for Reform/Redesign Models
 - Provide technical assistance for writing of Reform/Redesign Plans:
 - Closure
 - Restart
 - Turnaround
 - Transformationin conjunction with SSoS
 - Approve all Reform/Redesign Plans
 - Monitor approved plans

New Approach for the MI Excel SSoS

- If a school's challenges are accurately diagnosed through data analysis and professional dialogue at the district and building levels, then the implementation of a focused and customized set of interventions will result in school and student success

New Approach for the MI Excel SSoS

- Build capacity of the district to better support its schools using the Education Resource Strategies:
 - School Funding
 - Teaching
 - School Design
 - Instructional Support
 - Leadership
 - Central Services
 - Partnerships

<http://erstrategies.org/>

<http://mitoolkit.org/>

MI Excel Priority Schools

- The Regional Assistance Grant (RAG) supports Priority Schools
- ISD/ESA School Improvement Facilitators continue to coordinate the RAG services with the schools

MI Excel Supports

- Year One Title I Priority
Districts/Schools will have:
 - ISD/ESA School Improvement Facilitator – building level
 - Intervention Specialist – district level
 - Data Wall
 - District Toolkit
 - Surveys of Enacted Curriculum

MI Excel Supports

- Years Two and up Title I Priority Districts/Schools will have:
 - ISD/ESA School Improvement Facilitator – building level
 - Intervention Specialist – district level
 - Surveys of Enacted Curriculum
 - SSoS components that meet the school's needs
 - Content coaches
 - Professional learning
 - Culture/Climate Intervention
 - MDE approved Restructuring Model from an outside vendor

School Support Teams

- Required in all Title I Priority Schools
- ISD/ESA School Improvement Facilitator, district representative and Intervention Specialist
- Checks in on school teams and their implementation of the Instructional Learning Cycle

What do you think?

- This revision of the MI Excel SSoS has been in effect this school year.
- From what you know, how has this waiver revision supported Priority Schools?
- What questions might you have?

Priority Schools

- There is a website that has information on Priority Schools including the top-to-bottom look-up tool:

michigan.gov/priorityschools



MI Excel Supports for Title I Focus Schools

Title I Focus Schools receive:

- District Improvement Facilitator
- Data Package
- District Toolkit
- ERS Self Assessment

Requirements and Supports for Title I Focus Schools

- District Improvement Facilitators engage in professional dialogue with district administrators
 - Deep diagnostic data analysis around district systems
 - Differentiated district support for Focus schools
 - Revised District Improvement Plans
- District administrators engage in professional dialogue with their Focus Schools
 - Deep diagnostic data analysis
 - Revised School Improvement Plans

Role for ISD/ESA for Title I Focus Schools

- No Regional Assistance Grant money to support Title I Focus Schools
- No official role for ISDs/ESAs in the MI Excel SSoS
- Many ISD/ESA consultants are working with Focus Schools in their county

What do you think?

- From what you know and have heard about District Improvement Facilitators and the unofficial role of the ISD/ESA:
 - What makes sense about this “lighter touch?”
 - What other questions might you have?

Focus Schools

- There is a website that has information on Focus Schools including the look-up tool that shows a school's relationship to the gap:

michigan.gov/focusschools

Waiver Amendments

- The USED allowed states with approved ESEA Flexibility Waivers to consider if changes were necessary once the waiver requirements started to be implemented. If a state identified challenges to implementation or more efficient and effective ways to implement the waiver, it could change things through an amendment process.
- Michigan took advantage of this amendment opportunity twice:
 - December 2012
 - March 2013

What changed?

- The Choice/Transfer requirement for Title I Priority and Focus Schools was removed

What changed?

Title I set-aside requirements to Focus Schools were revised:

- No set-aside required during the first year of identification
- 10% building set-aside required during second and subsequent years of identification
- Additional district level set-aside is required during the third year of identification UNLESS the proficiency levels of the bottom 30% has improved; this set-aside is calculated according to a formula and will not exceed 10% in third year and 15% in fourth year of identification

What changed?

- The metric used to generate the achievement gap between the top and bottom 30% was adjusted to modify the impact of a few students with outlying scores near the very bottom or top

What do you think?

- Will these amendments allow MDE to implement the MI Excel SSoS more efficiently and effectively?
- What questions might you have?

Upcoming Dates

- May 1: Early Planning Session for Potential Focus Schools at Eagle Eye
- June 20: Early Planning Session for Districts with Potential Priority Schools at Lansing Center (follow-up to April 23 meeting)
- August 14: First Technical Assistance Meeting with newly identified Priority Schools at Lansing Center

Transformative Change

MDE believes:

- Critical component of effective turnaround is the ability to improve instruction for all students
- Turnaround requires adults to change
- Leading effective change requires a deep commitment to the goal and the ability to communicate and lead from the heart
- Relationships matter

Reflection

- In thinking of your role with Priority and Focus Schools, how might you support this transformative change in the districts and schools you work with?

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