

## Educator Supports

### Center of Excellence Update

Strengthening local school districts and educators by providing professional learning, consulting, coaching, and educational resources.

**Month:** December 2024

**Administrator:** Stephanie Brown/Mindy Miller

**Update:** Fall 2024 Professional Learning Update

Instructional Services and Community Supports is working to rebuild and revamp the professional learning offerings for educators within Kalamazoo County and beyond. Since 2020, we have significantly needed to shift the professional learning model to meet districts' needs. Much of our professional learning transitioned to virtual. However, in recent years, we have been adjusting back to more in-person learning to match the needs of districts. We are also being intentional about providing in-district learning in conjunction with our coaching and consulting and have been tracking those numbers better than in previous years.

Since August we have held forty professional learning opportunities in the areas of math, literacy, assessment, social studies, disciplinary literacy, alternative education, continuous improvement, multilingual, special education, and culture and climate. In addition, we have started several series to support coaching, new teachers, and equity within education that will run throughout the year. To date, we have supported 635 participants within these opportunities. We have supported all nine LEAs as well as many participants outside of the county and within KRESA. Most of our professional learning offerings have been held in person at KRESA as well as within the local districts. In addition, we have some hybrid, mix of in person and virtual, offerings. Our Educating Outside of the Box Symposium supported nearly two hundred alternative educators at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. This professional learning brings in educators from throughout the state as there are very limited options available for alternative educators.

Another role we hold as Instructional Services and Community Supports is to support all schools that are identified by the State of Michigan based on the school index as needing support. Five of our districts have schools identified as needing supports in one of the following areas:

- Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)
  - Highest level of identification, 3-year cycle
  - Seven schools from four districts currently in year 2 of a 3-year cycle
- Additional Targeted Support (ATS)
  - Second highest level of identification, 6-year cycle
  - Two schools from two districts in a year two of a 6-year cycle
- Targeted Supports (TSI)
  - Newly designated or identified each year, 1-year cycle
  - Four schools from two districts in this year's cycle

Each identified building is required to complete a comprehensive needs assessment to include a resource allocation review at the beginning of the cycle and then create a plan of improvement to include within the district's MICIP, Michigan's Continuous Improvement Plan. We facilitate those comprehensive needs assessments with buildings and support their teams in developing plans of improvement as well as implementation. This is the role of our educational improvement consultants.

There is a federal Regional Assistance Grant to provide funding to support our CSI schools and, in some cases, if all CSI needs are met, funds are able to be used to provide supports for the ATS and TSI schools. Our team is providing coaching, consulting, and professional learning to these schools in the areas of literacy, mathematics, culture climate, assessment, continuous improvement, Multi-Tiered System of Supports, and the facilitation of helping to create systems to implement the improvement plans.

More information on the identification process:

[School Index Identification Flow Chart](#)

**Action Item:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Attachments:**