



Michigan Coalition of Essential Schools **MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The MCES Middle School comprehensive program consists of scientifically-based and researched strategies outlined in The National Association of Secondary School Principals Breaking Ranks in the Middle: Strategies for Leading Middle Level Reform.

Purpose: To enable each student to perform at high levels academically and to successfully transition to high school.

Our experienced staff works with administrators and teachers to:

- Determine academically rigorous essential learnings.
- Create effective teacher teams with appropriate team and personal planning.
- Develop programs that meet the academic, developmental, social, and personal needs of each student.
- Implement a comprehensive advisory program.
- Provide differentiated instruction and assessment to meet all students learning styles.
- Develop flexible schedules.
- Develop leadership among all shareholders in a professional learning community.
- Provide equitable programming for all students.
- Align professional development to the needs of the school staff as a whole and individually.

We deliver:

- On-site coaching for building leadership and instructional staff
- Specific professional development in best instructional practice(all staff), Critical Friends Groups (teacher instructional leaders), and Leadership Training (Leadership Team).

Learning Venues: Professional Development Days, Staff Meetings, Team Meetings, Department Meetings, or plans determined by the Leadership Teams

School Staff Expectations:

- Use the Cycle of Continuous Improvement in all educational processes and programs and in all decision making and hold oneself and each other accountable for student success.
- Be an active participant in all CFGs and routinely examine student work.
- Engage in professional development using the processes of a well functioning professional learning community.
- Use effective instructional strategies with all learners.
- Develop and use interventions for struggling learners.
- Hold all students accountable to the same high standards using the Michigan Curriculum Framework.
- Develop and use differentiated assessments.



Michigan Coalition of Essential Schools **HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The overarching priority is to Prepare All Students to Succeed in Postsecondary Education and Careers by implementing the Breaking Ranks II Cornerstone Strategies and Recommendations as well as the Michigan School Improvement Frameworks.

To meet this priority, the high school will:

1. Provide interventions to assist students to catch up quickly and attain proficiency;
2. Enroll students in a coherent sequence of rigorous courses;
3. Provide tutoring and other academic supports;
4. Deliver comprehensive guidance and academic advising;
5. Increase opportunities for students to earn post secondary credit;
6. Provide Common Planning Time for Teachers to:
 - a. Examine student work and outcome data;
 - b. Engage in collaborative professional development and coaching;
 - c. Identify instructional interventions for struggling students;
 - d. Develop Curriculum and assessments.

MCES delivers the Breaking Ranks II Framework as Comprehensive School Improvement by integrating best practice, research based pedagogy with a content focus as professional learning communities and collaborative groups with professional development and on-site coaching support. Delivery systems include School Improvement Teams, Leadership Teams, Critical Friend Groups, and various staff meetings. Support systems to ensure sustainability include:

1. Consistent, ongoing coaching;
2. Connecting with a state and national network to provide support and shared accountability;
3. Setting high expectations for implementation;
4. Requiring evidence of success by measuring results frequently;
5. Building commitment from all stakeholders;
6. Consistently using the Cycle of Continuous Improvement.

MCES has provided comprehensive improvement services to more than 50 schools and has achieved results in several underperforming urban secondary schools. Currently, MCES is the technical assistance provider for the Michigan Smaller Learning Communities Consortium serving 6 large high schools.