

Support for School Improvement Planning During the Pandemic



Now, more than ever, schools need to focus on what matters most for student learning. Whether instruction is remote, in school, or hybrid, teachers, staff, students and their families expect that their school has a plan for maximizing student learning, regardless of the constraints imposed by the pandemic. In addition, most state accountability systems continue to require school improvement plans that address the root causes of low performance, particularly to access ESSA and other funds.

It has always been challenging to engage stakeholders in building and implementing an evidence-based school improvement plan. This year planning will be more difficult than ever with staff working remotely, limited school year 2019-20 student assessment data, and uncertainty about how school year 2020-21 will unfold.

Mass Insight can help! Our team of experienced plan facilitators can provide:

- Virtual plan facilitation and support
- Planning templates that align with state and district requirements
- Processes for engaging and communicating with stakeholders to build collective responsibility
- Support for identifying, analyzing, and using a variety of student data to inform plans
- A focus on equity of opportunity and outcomes for students

“ Thank you so much for integrating our ideas. I am feeling so much more optimistic with this process and feel that our committee is able to really dig into some important root causes and develop goals. ”

-Principal, Allentown, PA, July 2020

This year Mass Insight will provide remote support to school planning teams for the following:

1. Set the stage for planning

Clarify plan requirements and needs, identify a strong planning team, establish a planning schedule, process and logistics that account for current conditions.

2. Diagnose school strengths and challenges

Identify available and credible quantitative and qualitative data to inform planning, review data on remote learning from spring 2020, conduct virtual interviews and focus groups with key stakeholders including teachers, students and parents, and identify and document school strengths and challenges.

3. Facilitate root cause analysis

Identify the root causes of the school's challenges based on the findings from the diagnostic review and the limitations imposed by the pandemic.

4. Develop strategies and goals

Set goals and strategies to address the root causes of underperformance, improve student learning and increase equity that address the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

5. Build action plans for managing the strategies

Identify specific action steps, responsible people, schedules, and necessary resources for each strategy.

6. Manage plan implementation

Establish and support an ongoing, regular process for monitoring plan implementation, facilitating problem solving and adjusting plans to meet changing conditions.

To learn more, reach out to Rob Jentsch at rjentch@massinsight.org or Andrea Wolfe at awolfe@massinsight.org.

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