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Memorandum

To: ISD/ESA Consultants, Intervention Specialists, District Improvement Facilitators,
School Improvement Facilitators

From: Grant A. Chandler, Ph.D. Project Director, MI Excel

Re: Professional Learning

Date: October 19, 2015

We are so excited to share with you all the news in this lengthy memo! In an effort to serve you better, our team will be taking a new approach to the professional learning we provide. According to our attendance data and surveys from the field, it's important for us to provide professional learning in multiple ways in order to meet the various needs of service providers throughout the state.

As a result, we have examined our professional learning for 2015-2016 and have made significant changes in how we deliver these learning opportunities to you.

First, we will continue to provide face-to-face learning for the following courses:

- Crucial Conversations (Oct 21-22 – Novi)
- Instructional Learning Cycle (Oct 27 – Grand Rapids)
- Crucial Conversations (Oct 28-29 – Grand Rapids)
- Collaborative Learning Cycle (Nov 11-12 – Lansing)
- Performance Management (November 11-12 – Novi)
- Instructional Learning Cycle (November 30 – Lansing)
- SEC Analysis (December 15 – Lansing)
- Strategic School Design (Dec 16 -17– Lansing)
- Collaborative Learning Cycle (Jan 7-8 – Grand Rapids)
- Strategic School Design (February 4-5 – Grand Rapids)
- Crucial Accountability (Apr 19 – Grand Rapids)
- Crucial Accountability (May 11 - Novi)

For those of you who already registered for other face-to-face events, you will be receiving email communication from Anne Bohl giving you alternative registration for the online options for which you have indicated interest.

In lieu of the other face-to-face events, we will be providing on-line learning modules that will allow participants to access the content at their individual pace, to collaborate with consultants across the state in meaningful learning cohorts, and to be supported by the MI Excel team through on-line support networks. More specific registration will be available on the professional learning page on the Resource Center (www.tinyurl.com/MIExcel-ResourceCenter) beginning on Monday, October 26, 2015.

The on-line courses will include focused instruction on each component of the *Blueprint for Rapid Turnaround*: Driver, Driver Systems, District Systems, and Building Routines. A complete listing of these courses will be on the Resource Center beginning October 26th. Some of these courses will be self-paced, some will be live, and some will be a combination of the two. This will also allow the MI Excel team to continuously update the courses and participants will receive those updates automatically.

Finally, shifting the scope of our professional learning delivery will allow us to offer you something new. The MI Excel team will provide intense support to the service providers who would like to pursue *Blueprint Facilitator Certification*. This certification will include meaningful feedback based on the direct work with districts installing the *Blueprint*. Participants will receive intense support through the entire launch and installation process. We have scheduled several face-to-face sessions for this process. Those who choose this certification program should make every attempt to attend all of the sessions listed below. A complete overview of the program will be presented on November 5th in Lansing.

- November 5 (Lansing)
- January 19-20 (Lansing)
- March 22-23 (Grand Rapids)

Additional information about this brand new certification program will be forthcoming in a separate email communication.

We are confident that by providing professional learning in multiple ways, we will be able to provide more intentional support to each of you that will allow for continued change in the lives of all children in Michigan. Feel free to contact Beth, Kathy, Anne, or myself with any questions you may have.

This change in support will also be a topic of conversation at our next MI Excel Collaborative Partner meetings on November 2nd (Focus) and November 3rd (Priority).

As always, I thank you for everything you do every day to assist and support Michigan's children.