

"The Right Work"



Data Leadership

ALIGNING SYSTEMS

ALIGNMENT

MI-School Improvement Framework

IA 2-3, 5-7 IB 1, 3-5

IIA 2-6 IIB 2-4

IIIA 2-5 IIIB 1-3

Education Competencies 1-6

ABSTRACT:

Aligning Systems, an online course, examines the interconnectedness among the elements that comprise the whole system to determine how a change in one area of the system may impact other areas of the system and how that influences the work to be done.

GOAL: Provoke educational leaders to become system thinkers

OBJECTIVES: The learner will

1. Navigate in an online environment
2. Assess prior knowledge of systems thinking
3. Review the work of major systems thinking experts
4. Synthesize the commonalities among these works
5. Examine individual systems
6. Analyze and evaluate system components
7. Understand impact of change on systems
8. Respond to case scenarios
9. Understand, align and analyze issues through the lens of systems
10. Engage in online discussions
11. Apply knowledge to improve and solve problems at district/building level

PRE-REQUISITE KNOWLEDGE from preceding course(s)

1. Understanding of
 - a. MI School Improvement Framework Leadership Standards
 - b. Microsoft Education Competencies (Wheel)
2. Ability to use the following technology applications and tools:
 - a. Online Course Management System
 - b. Online Discussion Board

COURSE FORMAT

This course is totally online and will span 30 days.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Module 1: Framing the Construct of System Thinking

Read online and off-line sources

Discuss readings online

Module 2: Initial Analysis of Learners' Systems

Analyze components of learners' district/school systems

Share commonalities among systems with class members in a discussion board

Module 3: Systems Thinking

Using an assigned case scenario:

1. review the scenario of a possible change in practice
2. list all the system components that would be impacted by the change
3. analyze the impact on each component in the system
4. determine the course of action that will have the least overall impact on the entire system components
5. mitigate the effects of the change
 - a. who would you involve in the discussions; in the decision making?
 - b. how would you communicate?
 - c. with whom?
 - d. how would you proceed?

Post results of scenario activity to online discussion board and respond to other postings.

Module 4: Concluding Activity

Apply the learning from this course to your own personal situation by identifying an actual scenario and following the steps above. Submit a written analysis to instructor.