

Connecting for Middle Level School Success Initiative 2013-2014

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to invite schools to participate in the Connecting for Middle Level School Success Initiative during 2013-2014. The goal is to increase the achievement of Minnesota middle level students. Participant schools will gather, analyze, and utilize multiple sources of data; develop strong, effective, change-oriented leadership; and implement results-based programs and strategies. Initiative benefits include increasing knowledge of research-based instructional and leadership strategies, leadership capacity, and skills for long-term success. This initiative follows the format used successfully during the Connecting for High School to Postsecondary Success Initiative, which involved 81 principals in all regions of the state during 2008-2010. During 2012-2013, 57 middle level school principals in four regions participated in the initiative.

MDE will provide assistance to a select number of principals as they learn and implement strategies related to the following six research-based core components of the Systemic Middle Level Redesign: Building a Minnesota Model Framework, piloted in 2010-2012. The core components include rigorous and relevant curriculum for all students; a personalized learning environment for each student; highly effective teachers and instruction; effective leadership; a safe and healthy school environment; and data use for improvements in a timely and ongoing manner. A committee of middle level principals, the North Central Comprehensive Center/Mid-Continent Research in Education and Learning (NCCC/McREL), and other experts provided assistance during the creation of the Framework.

Participating principals will be expected to attend five free half days of training in their regions during the 2013-2014 school year. The training would be directly related to increasing the school capacity to successfully implement a systemic school improvement initiative related to one of the six core components and to collect data regarding the outcome. Principals will also be asked to share middle level school initiative experiences with regional and state groups and use a SharePoint online networking tool to support other participating principals with their initiatives.

If you are interested in participating, please complete and submit this form by September 1, 2013.

To complete this form, type directly on the form and click submit when finished.

Name

District School

Address City Zip code

Email Phone

MASSP DIVISION