

Creating Consistency and Coherence through Continuous Improvement

Educators are familiar with continuous improvement. Teachers are constantly assessing needs of students, implementing strategies to better support them, and making adjustments as context or student needs change. Continuous improvement happens in the classroom; it also happens among teacher teams, within school sites, at a district level, or even among educational stakeholders and communities.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is pleased to share a [process for continuous improvement](#) that can be used within any context or level of the preK-12 education system.

Why are we building this process?

1. **To encourage coherence and connections.** Schools and districts are bombarded with multiple plans, grants, and legislative mandates. At the heart of this work, there is a focus on the same components of continuous improvement. Even with specific requirements and unique contexts, there is an opportunity to better connect local plans as well as the support MDE provides to move towards more coherence and alignment.
2. **To shift mindsets.** This work is focused on understanding where we are and getting better. When approaching the work with a growth mindset, ongoing improvement and relationships are made. An explicit commitment to equity, demonstrated through action, is one of the key components in this work.
3. **To stay focused on the “how”.** Continuous improvement is a process for “how” we do the work. Regardless of grant parameters, legislative mandates or program requirements, the process for continuous improvement is the same.

What is the process?

<p>Step 1: Establish a Leadership Team</p> <p><i>Who will be involved in the process? How will we engage them meaningfully?</i></p>
<p>Step 2: Assess Needs And Set Priorities</p> <p><i>Where are we now? How did we get where we are? Where do we want to be?</i></p>
<p>Step 3: Select Strategies and Create a Plan</p> <p><i>How are we going to get to where we want to be? How will we inform implementation?</i></p>
<p>Step 4: Implement the Plan and Get Better</p> <p><i>How's it going, and what's next?</i></p>
<p>Step 5: Reassess Needs, Priorities and Strategies</p> <p><i>Should we reassess our team, needs, and strategies?</i></p>