



The Center
FOR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
REFORM AND IMPROVEMENT

www.centerforcsri.org

Painless Improvement Strategies Within Reach

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The Center for Comprehensive School
Reform and Improvement

January 2009

Objectives

- Introduce The Center and its resources, which are available at no cost to schools, districts, and states.
- Present and discuss the six quality indicators for improving academic outcomes.
- Share best practices for instructional delivery.
- Model a process for successfully implementing and growing strategies schoolwide.

What Is The Center?

- Based in Washington, D.C., The Center is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education.
- The Center provides research and technical assistance services to districts and states.
- All materials and activities are research based.
- Learning Point Associates, based in Naperville, Illinois, administers The Center's work.
- All services are provided at no cost.

Mission

The Center's mission is to help schools and districts organize, plan, implement, and sustain improvement.

Products and Services

- Ask-the-Expert service
- Research-based materials
- District-level and state-level technical assistance
- Self-administered school review tool
- Website: www.centerforcsri.org

Materials



- Newsletters
- Issue briefs
- Research briefs
- Policy briefs
- Webcasts and DVDs of the webcasts

Technical Assistance Examples

- Supporting an urban school district in corrective action with a group of schools in restructuring.
- Supporting a school system that is struggling to serve its Native American students appropriately.
- Supporting several school districts whose changing demographics have led to an increased number of culturally or linguistically diverse students.
- Supporting turnaround leaders who have assumed the leadership of struggling schools.



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The Six Quality Indicators



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Associates®

The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement is administered by Learning Point Associates under contract with the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education.

Research-Supported Quality Indicators for Successful Schools

- Aligned and rigorous curriculum
- Effective instructional practices
- Student assessment data and analysis
- Positive school culture focused on achievement
- Effective school leadership
- Parental and community engagement

1. Aligned and Rigorous Curriculum

- Curriculum is aligned with state standards.
- Curriculum is articulated across grade levels and subject areas.
- Curriculum is flexible to meet the needs of all students.
- Curriculum is monitored and evaluated periodically.
- Curriculum includes sufficient instructional resources.

2. Effective Instructional Practices

- Teachers are knowledgeable.
- Teachers are evaluated based on high standards.
- Teachers are provided with frequent feedback.
- Professional development is relevant and job-embedded for all staff.
- Assessment is frequent and used to drive instruction.
- Classroom activities are varied, engaging, and relevant.
- Additional assistance is provided for struggling learners.

3. Student Assessment Data and Analysis

- Assessments are aligned to state standards.
- A comprehensive school-level data management system is in place.
- Student progress is reported frequently.
- Instructional decisions are based on student performance data.

4. Positive School Culture

- High expectations are set for all students.
- School environment is safe and orderly.
- Diversity is respected.
- Student support is provided at key transition points.

5. Effective School Leadership

- Shared vision and mission is evident.
- Decision making is shared.
- Principal ensures an equitable, respectful, and supportive environment.

6. Parent and Community Engagement

- Families are invited to participate in school activities.
- Families are informed about available assistance for their children who are struggling in school.
- Families and community members are invited to participate in school improvement planning.

Carousel Brainstorm

- Choose one of the quality indicators.
- Think about the types of practices and strategies that may be effective in addressing the quality indicator in a school.
- List the practices and strategies.



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Best Practices for Instructional Delivery



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Aligned and Rigorous Curriculum

- Examination of the curriculum standards
- Collaborative planning
- Vertical articulation
- Horizontal alignment

Effective Instruction

- Strategies for classroom instruction
(Marzano, Pickering, & Pollock, 2001)
- Differentiated instruction
(Tomlinson, 2001)
- Higher-order thinking skills
Bloom's Taxonomy

Student Assessment Data

- Planning with the end in mind
- Common assessments
- Formal and informal assessments
- Student samples
- Arranging grade book by standards (targets, indicators, and objectives)

Two-Minute Reflection

- Reflect on the strategies that have been discussed.
- What questions or concerns do you have about implementing the strategies successfully in your school?



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Implementing and Growing Strategies Schoolwide



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Challenges With Implementation

- What are some of the challenges that arise when implementing new strategies in schools?
 - At the beginning of the year?
 - During the year?
 - Toward the end of the year?

Common Issues With Implementation

- Too many strategies or initiatives introduced
- Strategies not communicated effectively
- Strategies too vague (too broad)
- Lack of expertise in the use of strategies
- Lack of proper training in the use of strategies
- Lack of coherence (strategies not connected to data and goals)

Planning for Implementation

- Set priorities.
- Identify resources—time, expertise, materials, funds, space, and other resources.
- Establish clear leadership—vision and focus.
- Provide professional development—training, job-embedded, sustained, and aligned.
- Create lines of communication for input and feedback.
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of strategies.

Action Planning

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**ttainable
- **R**esearch-based
- **T**ime bound
- What is the strategy and action?
- Who is responsible?
- What professional development is needed?
- What resources are needed?
- What is the timeline?
- How and when will feedback be given?
- How will the action be sustained?

Effective Implementation

Effective implementation requires the following:

- Focus
- A schedule
- Collaboration
- Data (sign-in sheets, teacher surveys, evaluation forms, debriefing notes, lesson plans, classroom observations, student samples, and achievement data)
- Ongoing monitoring
- Periodic evaluation

Evaluating Implementation



- Step 1: Clarify goals.
- Step 2: Create evaluation questions.
- Step 3: Identify needed data and how to collect them.
- Step 4: Analyze and interpret data.
- Step 5: Use the results.

Questions or Comments?



References

- Marzano, R. J., Pickering, D. J., & Pollock, J. E. (2001). *Classroom instruction that works: Research-based strategies for increasing student achievement*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.
- Tomlinson, C. A. (2001). *How to differentiate instruction in mixed ability classrooms* (2nd ed.). Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.



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