



State Superintendent's Schools of Promise

Five Lessons Learned from Successful Schools

1. These schools deliver rigorous instruction aligned to the standards.

All students, regardless of how they are grouped for instruction, have access to challenging academic curricula. Curricula and instruction is focused on high academic standards. Teachers pursue a variety of instructional strategies to ensure that their students acquire challenging skills.

2. These schools provide leadership that results in continuous improvement of instruction.

There is a shared responsibility for improving teaching and learning throughout the school. Teachers and administrators have regular opportunities to plan, work and learn with each other. Administrators are focused primarily on student learning and good teaching. School personnel collaborate around instructional issues and learn from and with each other in ways that continually improve teaching.

3. These schools design instruction to ensure every student's success.

The school is relentless and organized in ways that reflect high academic expectations for every student, including children receiving special education and bilingual education services, children who have exhibited behavior problems and children who tend to fall behind academically.

4. These schools engage parents and the community to support student success.

Parents have multiple avenues for getting involved. The school is working actively to build strong relationships with parents, families and community groups. The school is reaching out to parents, families, and communities in ways that help create a sense of true partnership that is built on mutual respect and focused toward the common goal of improving student achievement.

5. These schools create a culture where each individual feels valued.

The school has created an environment in which students and staff feel valued, respected and appreciated. The academic work of students is celebrated and held in high esteem. The cultural, racial, ethnic and language backgrounds of students are honored.