Focus on Learning

Strategy 5
Develop a Common Understanding of Excellent Teaching and Powerful Learning

Common Core and Poverty

Instructional Shifts:
- Thinking skills/reasoning
- Deeper conceptual understanding in math
- Writing
- Real-world applications
- Knowledge building through increased non-fiction/informational text

30+ Years of Research

- HOTS
- AVID
- NSF Math Programs
- National Writing Project
- Place-based Education: Expeditionary Learning
- SIOP

Focus on Learning

- Tracking / Retention Pullouts
- Misassignment to Special Education
- Misassigned Teachers
- Teacher Isolation
- Ineffective Instruction

Teachers Make The Difference!

...They think ... we can learn this ****!!
Focus on Learning

Strategy 6
Teach Every Student to Read K-12

Have we ensured that all students are proficient in reading?

Elementary Students At Risk

Reading is when you know what sounds the letters make and then you say them fast. They come out words, and then you are reading.
R. J., age 5

All kids...
...want to learn how to read!

You can read when you look at car and then you look at can and know you drive one and open the other one and there is only one eensy line different.
Shelby, age 6

It’s when you read and nobody tells you the words. But you shouldn’t do it in the bathroom. My daddy does and my mom yells at him.
Paulette, age 5
Words go in your eyes and come out your mouth...but it’s not like puking or anything. You say the words and that means you’re reading. Loren, age 4

We MUST... Focus On Reading... For Every Student

We will never teach all our students to read if we do not teach our students who have the greatest difficulties to read. Another way to say this is: Getting to 100% requires going through the bottom 20%.”


Focus on Learning

Strategy 7
Provide Targeted Interventions
- Pre K / Full Day Kindergarten
- Tutoring
- Extended Day / Summer Programs
- Homework Clubs
- Home Visits
- Alternative Schools & Programs
- College / Career Readiness

Do we provide targeted interventions?

Focus on Learning

Strategy 8
Implement Student-led Conferences

Do we have common assessments and embrace assessment literacy?

Traditional Parent/Teacher Conferences

Do These Work?

Focus on Learning

Strategy 9
Provide Meaningful, Needs-Driven, Job-embedded Professional Learning

Do we provide job-embedded opportunity for professional learning?
A Word About Technology

Focus on Learning
Our Student’s World is Digital

- More than one billion people using Facebook actively each month
- 72 hours of video uploaded per minute
- Over 4 billion hours of video are watched each month on YouTube
- 5 million images are uploaded to Instagram every day
- 750 tweets per second

Focus on Learning
Connect Technology To Instruction

One Caution: The Digital Divide

- Access to devices
- Access to high speed internet
- Familiarity with tech skills

http://www.edmodo.com/
RECAP and REFLECT

#5 Understand Quality Teaching & Learning
#6 Teach Every Student To Read
#7 Provide Targeted Interventions
#8 Implement Student-Led Conferences
#9 Needs-Driven Professional Learning

A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION:
Leading High Poverty Schools to High Performance

Build Leadership Capacity

- Low Expectations
- Inequitable Funding
- Failure To Retain Effective Leaders & Teachers

Swift, dramatic improvement requires an encounter with the “brutal facts” – those awkward, unpleasant truths that organizations prefer not to address—or even talk about.


Tools for Schools

Are we perpetuating underachievement: What have we eliminated?
Build Leadership Capacity

**Strategy 10**
Consider your Budget a Moral Document

Are we managing material and human resources effectively?

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Where’s the time for all of this?

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**We will never catch up under-achieving students who live in poverty...**

without additional quality instructional time for those students...

and job-embedded time for the professional learning needs of their teachers.

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**Less Summer Vacation**

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**Less Weekends, Holidays, & Summer Vacation**
Less Professional Development Days & Early Dismissal/Parent Conferences

Less Class Picnic, Class Trip, Thanksgiving Feast, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hannukkah, Awards, Assemblies, Athletics & Concerts

Less State and District Testing

Bottom Line:

Roughly 13-15 8-hr Days of Instruction Per Subject Per Year

Build Leadership Capacity

Strategy 11

Go Back... Find the Time

Go Back... Find the Time

- Get creative...support professional learning that does not distract from instructional time
- Reduce scheduled / unscheduled interruptions
- Schedule testing wisely
- Extend learning...day / week / summer
- Minimize Pullouts
- Stop releasing students early
- Conduct parent / student led conferences outside school day

Are we optimizing time...EXTENDING it for underachieving students and REORGANIZING it to better support professional learning?
Build Leadership Capacity

**Strategy 12**

Use data to find the bright spots and change your school or district’s story

Do we have a data system that works for classroom and school leaders?

Build Leadership Capacity

Communicating the bright spots changes the story others tell about your school and district.

RECAP and REFLECT

#10 Consider Your Budget A Moral Document

#11 Go Back… Find The Time

#12 Use Bright Spots!

A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION:

- **Leading High Poverty Schools to High Performance**
- Sphere of Influence
- Focus on Leading Culture
- Focus on Leading Systems
- Focus on Leading Strategy
- Focus on Leading Family Engagement
- Focus on Leading Community Engagement
- Focus on Leading Poverty
- Focus on Leading Equity
- Focus on Leading Professional Learning
- Focus on Leading Data
- Focus on Leading Budget
- Focus on Leading Accountability
- Focus on Leading Supportive Leadership
Professional Accountability for Learning

“Whatever it takes.”

Believe in success for everyone

Compelling Conclusions

Six Key Points to Take Away

- Consider your budget as a moral document
- Create a culture of high expectations for every student... provide the needed support
- Make decisions based on data...select and prioritize strategies based on needs
- Eliminate practices that perpetuate underachievement... start today
- Take action...implement, monitor and evaluate “needs-based” strategies
- Foster positive RELATIONSHIPS / COLLABORATE!

Collaborate

Look what happens when we go at it alone...
Any school can overcome the debilitating effects of poverty...

...demographics do not equal destiny!

We must combat hopelessness... and instill in every child the self-confidence that they can achieve and succeed in school.

What do we choose to do?

...our students are waiting

For the PDF version of the handout: “High-Poverty, Low-Performing Schools Can Improve: 12 Strategies That Make The Difference” please visit http://csi.boisestate.edu/ and click on the “Presentations” link.