



The Principals' Partnership

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Research Brief

Title I strategies

Question: What types of effective activities/programs have been implemented in identified Title One Targeted Assisted Schools?

Summary of Findings: The Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory profiled 12 schools in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana that had made significant improvement in student achievement. While specifics of reform may vary, research shows that it is an ongoing process of determining goals and benchmarks by conducting needs assessments, using data to guide decision-making, aligning goals for student performance with state and local standards, and evaluating results to fine-tune reform strategies. There is a shared vision of excellence and equity, with students and staff engaged in learning. Adequate resources, a positive school climate, and effective collaborative leadership prevail. Parent and community involvement is welcome, and decision-making is based on data. School leaders play a critical role, and districts can support school reform by investing in professional development of principals in creating a collaborative culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Researchers generally agree that these reborn schools create specific conditions that form the catalyst for change. *Profiles of Progress: What Works in Northwest Title I Schools*, (<http://www.nwrel.org/request/sept01/index.html>) by Jennifer Railsback, Bracken Reed, and Suzie Boss, surveyed the research literature and found these conditions include:

- Shared vision of excellence and equity
- Students and staff engaged in learning
- Positive, safe school climate
- Effective, collaborative school leadership
- Adequate resources
- Decision-making based on data and research
- Parent and community involvement

Online Resources:

What Works in Title I Schools

The booklet spotlights these schools' successful reform strategies for the benefit of other schools that may be facing similar challenges. The school profiles include specific examples and practical insights to illustrate how they used these strategies to make a difference. The authors also point out the implications of these findings for policymakers who wish to support schools' reform efforts.

<http://www.nwrel.org/nwreport/nov01/titleone.html>

Comprehensive School Reform: Selected Research & Readings

A list of helpful articles about school reform.

<http://www.ecs.org/html/IssueSection.asp?issueid=27&s=Selected+Research+%26+Readings>



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What is Comprehensive School Reform (CSR)?

An excellent overview of Comprehensive School Reform (CSR). CSR is grounded in the idea that there is a systematic process to help schools improve. After carefully reflecting on their existing programs, schools engaged in CSR coalesce around a design for change and implement that design to improve students' education. CSR gives educators research-based, replicable strategies for whole-school, rather than piecemeal, change.

http://www.csrclearinghouse.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=37&Itemid=36

Stepping Up to the Challenge: Case Studies of Educational Improvement in Title I Secondary Schools.

Rubenstein, Michael C.; Wodatch, Jessica K.

This study examined the role of Title I in 18 secondary schools (9 intermediate and 9 high schools) that serve disadvantaged students, are engaged in comprehensive school improvement efforts, and have consistently high or improving student achievement. The schools relied on three major strategies to improve and maintain the quality of teaching in their classrooms: (1) providing teachers with multiple opportunities to expand their professional expertise; (2) instituting school accountability systems that require students to demonstrate their intellectual growth; and (3) using data collection and analysis to guide the school's decisions. The larger middle schools and half of the high schools created smaller learning communities to combat the impersonality of the large schools. They attempted to engage students in the life of the school, offered support services for students, and made strong efforts to involve parents.

ERIC #: ED446191

http://www.eric.ed.gov:80/ERICWebPortal/Home.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=RecordDetails&urlType=action&objectId=0900000b80128ced

Ensuring Student Success: A Handbook of Evidence-Based Strategies.

Friedman, Myles I.

The purpose of this book is to help educational change agents and educators ensure student success through high school by implementing educational practices that research has shown to be effective. The chapter titles include: "Implementing Corrective Tutoring"; "Making Instruction More Effective"; "Promising and Generic Instructional Strategies"; "Empowering Students to Learn on Their Own"; "Preventing Impediments to Learning"; "Effective Preschool Instruction"; and

"Teaching Students to Innovate."

ERIC #: ED476150

http://www.eric.ed.gov:80/ERICWebPortal/Home.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=RecordDetails&urlType=action&objectId=0900000b80179c91

US DOE Title I Publications

Browse this list for the best and latest in publications from the US Department of Education,



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pecially-selected titles related to Title I and School Improvement concerns.

http://www.ccnetwork.org/guidebooks/title1/rg_sec2.htm

Boost Family Involvement: How To Make Your Program Succeed under the New Title I Guidelines.

Macfarlane, Eleanor C.

This booklet guides educators in developing the family involvement part of a Title I program proposal. The booklet presents a checklist based on the new Title I Parental Involvement guidelines, many sample forms, sample school district parental involvement policies, sample program descriptions, and an overview of some research in parental involvement. After an introduction, sections of the booklet are New Title I Guidelines for Parental Involvement; Developing the Parental Involvement Components of Your Title I Proposal; Suggestions for Reaching "Hard-to-Reach" Families; and Strategies for Low-Literacy Families; Ideas You Can Use: Examples of Parental Involvement Programs That Work (and a Few That Don't). Contains 26 references. A 34-item annotated list of materials for parents, and a 40-item list of organizations are attached.

ERIC #: ED379709

http://www.eric.ed.gov:80/ERICWebPortal/Home.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=RecordDetails&urlType=action&objectId=0900000b80139073

Parent Involvement Policies and Title I: What Parents Need to Know

The PTA's list of what parents can do to be involved in their school to address Title I goals.

http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/parenttalk/pt_piandlaw.asp

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