



School Improvement Best Practices Support

Overview

The School Improvement Best Practices (SI BPs) are the specific tools that will aid struggling schools within school systems across the state of Louisiana. The Division of School Improvement within the Office of Teaching Learning exists to provide differentiated and targeted support to school systems and leaders in the implementation of LDOE School Improvement Best Practices. This work is based on a shared set of initiatives, also referred to as Best Practices, and is grounded in the Department's [Believe to Achieve](#) priority of cultivating high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships.

Theory of Action

If the Division of School Improvement Support Specialists (SISS) engage in timely high-quality professional learning experiences and use high-quality, researched-based tools to provide differentiated and curriculum-focused support in partnering with school system leaders in the implementation of LDOE School Improvement Best Practices by

- **consulting** with system leaders to discuss current initiatives and stakeholder needs;
- **collaborating** with system leaders to identify specific Best Practices and schools that will receive support, developing support plans reflective of current needs, setting observable and measurable goals to meet needs, and engaging in concrete, aligned support actions; and,
- **coaching** system leaders to monitor progress of goal attainment, conducting paired observations to gauge quality of learning experiences enhanced by curriculum implementation, and collecting and using data to provide timely, high-quality instructional feedback,

then system leaders will be equipped with the appropriate knowledge and tools to support school leaders in strengthening their instructional capacity to result in a transformation of learning and teaching practices.

As a result, system leaders and school leaders actively implement, apply, and evaluate strategic plans that ensure children in priority schools experience a high-quality educational journey that prepares them to graduate on time.

Best Practices

There are five Best Practices that school systems may choose to implement.

- **Instructional Leadership Team**- Instructional Leadership Teams focus on building capacity and making decisions. ILTs consist of leaders who serve in various capacities across the school system and within schools. ILT members consistently engage in collaborative actions to identify and meet student, teacher, and leader needs. Such actions will result in improved teaching and learning experiences.
- **Teacher Collaboration Support** – Teacher collaboration promotes teacher development by providing teachers with weekly, job-embedded learning. TC is facilitated by a skilled educator that serves within the building, and seeks to meet student needs by affording teachers the opportunity to collaborate with peers to discuss:
 - the implementation of high quality instructional materials
 - relevant, current student and teacher needs evidence by data/work samples
 - how to best meet students' needs throughout instructional settings and groupings (whole group, small group, or individual).
- **Teacher Standards Support**- Teacher Standards comprise a set of standards that inform and measure teaching skills, knowledge, and responsibilities. These standards focus on four domains: instruction, the



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learning environment, designing and planning instruction, and professionalism. The goal of these standards is to promote high quality instructional practices to positively impact student achievement.

- **Principal Standards Support-** Principal Standards comprise of a set of standards that define, inform , and measure excellence in school leadership
- **Career Pipeline Support-** Career Pipeline denotes an intentional system for identifying and utilizing site-based teacher leaders to improve teaching and learning in all classrooms. This pipeline provides an opportunity for teachers to advance professionally and support the growth of their colleagues.

Support

The SISS will assist school systems in determining which Best Practice(s) to implement during the 2021-2022 school year using the following structure:

Consultation: School system and SISS meet to identify Best Practices area of support.

Collaboration: School system and SISS complete Best Practices agreement to identify schools that will receive specific support.

Coaching/Support: School system, SISS, and school leader(s) meet to determine the focus of coaching short-term goal and develop a coaching cycle.