

## Requirement #8:--Comprehensive Instructional Reform

*Atlantic Research's* School Improvement Model is a robust and multifaceted approach to evaluating, intervening, and training teachers, staff, and systems. The most common component of low performing schools, particularly low performing high schools, is a lack of systems in place within a school. The lack of systems can arise from multiple factors, including inadequate rules and regulations, ineffective teaching and building leadership, and/or failure to provide professional development and coaching. Nationwide research establishes one fundamental tenet: sustainable and effective school reform must begin with systems that meet both (i) the academic and (ii) the logistical needs of a school and its faculty.

*Atlantic Research's* approach begins with a systemic, thorough and comprehensive audit of the site with an intense focus on six key areas: Student achievement, Teaching behaviors, Curriculum alignment and rigor, School culture, Resource management and efficiency, and School leadership.

The specific methods *Atlantic Research* employs every day at each school site are differentiated to meet the needs of the school and customized to the issues affecting the building, but there are some common themes in our approach to school reform.

- Student achievement is the driving purpose of our work.
- Teaching quality must be evaluated and changed into a highly effective process for educating students.
- All professional development for teachers must be job-embedded, on-going and aligned to documented strategies for increasing student achievement.
- School culture must be changed from the inside out; it requires working with teachers and staff members to create positive factors daily.
- Management and effective use of existing resources is critical to student achievement within any school site.
- School leadership is a necessary component to overall building success and student achievement.

*Atlantic Research* will employ a variety of staff members and experts in content areas and school management/leadership for the purpose of increasing student achievement in school buildings and addressing underperformance. *Atlantic Research* will provide a general project manager who will manage budgets, staffing and client relationships at each building. Further, *Atlantic Research* will provide an assistant to the general manager who will provide back-up assistance throughout the overall project. In addition to these logistical/facilities/staffing managerial positions, each school will have a lead team member charged with guiding academic performance and initiatives in the building. This individual will drive the school reform initiatives and will be assisted by an associate lead team member in the building.

Evidence of Effectiveness:

Our work at Lafayette Primary School in Kankakee has affected student achievement in a positive way. There is strong evidence that the students in the greatest need – Those at risk in Reading and Math achievement – are responsible for swathes of positive gains in their AIMSWeb assessments. The overall conclusion is that a substantively larger proportion of students will be at grade level by the end of the year – The ultimate goal of school improvement efforts in historically underperforming schools