

Strategic Learning Initiatives: Comprehensive Instructional Reform

Third-party research shows that using the SLI Focused Instructional Process, schools will jump-start their standardized state test scores across grade levels 2-6 times faster than prior average progress rates. With SLI's support, school leadership teams customize school structures and processes to focus the school stakeholders on the priority needs of each school. In addition, an extensive process of networking is established within and among schools to reduce isolation and support collaboration.

Aligned with an effective coaching process that uses weekly formative assessment data for the common core standards to monitor student progress and plan instructional interventions, the Focused Instruction Process (FIP) model has repeatedly demonstrated success across K-12 classrooms, in the lowest income neighborhoods around the country. It is a process that is continuously adjusted to meet diverse student needs, providing better utilization of resources and increased effectiveness. The basic structure at the elementary school level in which all teachers typically teach literacy and mathematics enables whole staff engagement in the main subject focus areas of the FIP process. This generates a school-wide or whole school concentrated effort focused on improving student achievement.

A key outcome of the SLI model is increased collaboration among all staff through a process of identifying and resolving problems. This improved way of working together improves classroom results while deepening the respect among all the staff for previously unrecognized creativity, energy and commitment, thus growing a more effective collegial culture. SLI emphasizes that a change in the culture is important ally in the transformation of a school.

While many areas of school change need to be addressed for dramatic, sustainable improvements, research affirms that student-teacher interaction and personal bonding is the pivot point for school turnaround. In order for any school to see improvements in student achievement, significant improvements in the focused interaction of students and teachers must be the central strategy. The Focus Instruction Process (FIP) of Strategic Learning Initiatives is the key strategy for effecting change in classroom instruction. FIP is a research-based strategy designed by classroom teachers. It is based on the highly successful strategies used by schools and businesses that integrate high performance and continuous improvement principles (Sebring, et. al., 2006; Simmons, 2006).

FIP will provide teachers, principals, and district staff with a powerful framework of new structures and processes for integrating school improvement strategies, which research shows consistently results in significantly improved student achievement.

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