

Southern Regional Education Board – High Schools That Work:

Lead Partner

The High Schools That Work school improvement framework is the nation's largest and oldest school improvement design for high schools. Since 1987, SREB has served more than 2,700 schools across the nation and currently serves over 1,400 secondary schools in 41 states, including Illinois. Of these schools, 392 are high-minority schools (50 percent or more minority students). SREB's Annual *HSTW* Staff Development Conference has had over 100,000 attendees in the past 23 years and SREB has conducted the Getting Students Ready for High School Institutes over 20 times nationally, as statewide institutes and within districts during the past four years. In 2002 SREB created its Learning-Centered Leadership Program (LCLP) in order to improve the quality of school leadership training and support so that the leadership necessary to improve schools can be found. The LCLP developed 19 leadership training modules that have now been used to train thousands of educators. SREB's staff members are highly qualified and experienced practitioners of school reform initiatives throughout the nation. A cadre of school leadership consultants for SREB coordinates major activities throughout the duration of the project, and its leadership provides guidance and oversight for the management process.

SREB has developed unique capacity and expertise in a variety of strategies to assist schools to take redesign implementation to the next level. This expertise has been developed over time by support from numerous foundations and by direct contract work in many high schools and districts. The Illinois schools that identify HSTW as their lead partner has the following SREB staff (at a minimum):

- 1) **HSTW School Leadership Coach:** Each partner school is assigned a coach with successful experience in leading a high school and in turning around low performing schools; most of the specialists come from leading a HSTW school or are identified and selected based on a rigorous interview and vetting process. The HSTW School Improvement Specialist provides daily support to the school and frequent communication and contact with the district.
- 2) **HSTW Project Director:** This HSTW Director monitors the progress of the site, holds weekly conversations with the HSTW School Leadership Coach to discuss progress and challenges, and conducts monthly onsite visits to the school and district to debrief successes and challenges and plan further actions.
- 3) **HSTW Content Specialists:** Specialists in content curriculum and instruction work with teachers through professional development and job-embedded content coaching to strengthen curriculum and instruction. All specialists are highly regarded trainers with advanced degrees, successful classroom instructors and have field experience working with faculty from challenged schools.
- 4) **SREB Support Staff:** Clerical and management support staff support the HSTW School Leadership Coach, HSTW Project Director and Content Specialists to provide materials and other functions to support the school's efforts to implement the design.