

Southern Regional Education Board – High Schools That Work:

Program Monitoring

An essential component of the SREB support is program monitoring. This monitoring begins at the district level by ensuring the district is a partner in the process. Just as it is difficult for teachers to succeed in the absence of effective school principals, it is unlikely that principals and assistant principals will succeed if their district leadership lacks a vision of effective school and classroom practices and an understanding of the district's role in supporting principals. Using lessons learned from our Florida Turnaround Leaders Program, SREB offers high-quality training and follow-up coaching for members of district leadership teams to support school leaders in leading and turning around persistently low-achieving schools. Each team engages a larger strategic planning team comprised of district, school and community representatives. With the assistance of an SREB consultant, this team creates a strategic plan with specific frameworks of best practices, policies and strategies that enable school principals and assistant principals to take ownership of problems and implement proven solutions.

A vital piece of data that is critical for transformation/turnaround is the consistent collection of data on school and classroom practices. By monitoring these changes, schools better judge the impact of professional development and all other aspects of transformation. SREB leadership coaches work with school leaders to develop protocols and procedures to collect and analyze school and classroom practices data. This includes consistent use of walkthrough observations, student and teacher surveys, focus group discussions and other tools to ensure practices are changing.

SREB provides a Project Lead who will hold monthly conference calls with school and district leadership to monitor progress, make adjustments as needed and recognize successes. In addition, the project lead will conduct quarterly on-site visits to meet with teachers, leaders and students to gauge progress.

SREB also conducts a follow-up school and classroom practices needs assessment in the final year of the grant focused on determining the progress made in changing adult practices.

SREB also works with school leaders and teachers to analyze changes in student achievement and make adjustments in plans as needed.