

Southern Regional Education Board – High Schools That Work:

Use of Data to Drive Instruction

SREB offers several avenues of support to assist schools in using data to improve instruction. The first of these is through leadership development using SREB's nationally recognized leadership modules. The leadership module, *Using Root Cause Analysis to Foster a Culture of Change* shows principals and school leaders how to engage individuals and teams to ask tough questions about which current school practices are limiting student learning and to mine a variety of data sources to articulate clearly the scope, cause and potential resolution of the problem. Using predictive student-level data is one of the innovative components for improving student learning. This requires the creation of a culture open to change and innovation. High-performing school leadership expands this culture of higher expectations for all students to build a shared belief among school and community stakeholders. The shared beliefs about effort, relevance and relationship stimulate students' desire for achievement, efficacy and effort. Participants in this 40-hour course learn to work as a team to uncover underlying causes of underperformance and build a high-performance learning culture to tackle needed change at the building level. The course is provided to school and focus team leaders and district support staff in year one of the partnership.

The module SREB uses is our *Rigor in the Curriculum* module — which introduces principals and school leaders to alignment tools to determine whether levels of rigor and core habits of mind in their schools are at the level that produces high achievement from all groups of students. They use these tools to evaluate the alignment of teaching, assessment and expected student learning to determine whether intellectually demanding works exists in lessons and assignments and whether rigor exists systemically in all of the school's courses.

In addition to the modules outlined above, SREB offers data-driven training for administrators and school leadership teams to develop their leadership skills to take an active role in:

- Aligning all curriculum and instructional strategies with teachers.
- Using an instructional rubric to determine the level of assignments, assessments and student work.
- Monitoring and assessing the implemented curriculum, instructional effectiveness and student engagement with walkthrough training followed by side-by-side mentoring by an SREB coach.

SREB also works with teachers to use protocols in common planning time to analyze classroom data, student work and teacher assignments as a way to modify instruction.