

Supporting Student Success Guide Overview and Uses

Introduction

The Supporting Student Success Guide is a tool to help administrators and teachers think about how their own school environment can change to ensure that every student in their school has the opportunity and support to succeed. The guide describes how the school environment reflects a commitment to academic success for all students. Recent research shows successful schools are those where planning for individual student success is the norm. Everyone from the classroom teacher, to specialists, custodians, and building principals share a common view that each student's learning is the highest priority.

Organization of the SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS GUIDE

Four components describing successful schools are broken down into elements with indicators to help teachers and school staff examine building culture and reflect on progress toward a commitment to academic success for all students. The Guide is intended to be used as a school-wide tool to help staff visualize behaviors in schools to attend to the needs of individual students.

The components are:

I. Student Learning is the Highest Priority:

- o This component requires all school staff to take personal responsibility for student success.
- o Taking responsibility means that if a student does not achieve, instruction has failed or the proper intervention has not yet been employed for that student.

II. Schools Attend to Individual Students:

- o Teachers and Administrators build individual relationships with every student.
- o These professional relationships focus on student success, instructional practice, and professional development, rather than on rules and behaviors.

III. Schools Make Improvements Based on Data and Community Context:

- o Factors such as poverty, large class size, etc., are acknowledged in planning, but are not paralyzing to progress.
- o Data are continuously collected and used to inform planning, rather than to measure past progress.

IV. Schools Establish High Expectations for Every Student:

- o Expectations are based on standards and research and are clearly communicated to students, families and staff.
- o Student performance data is used to identify struggling learners and inform appropriate instructional changes.
- o Teachers and Administrators are provided with training to improve their practice.

Purpose of the Supporting Student Success Guide

The Supporting Student Success Guide is based on research in schools where students are achieving in spite of contextual factors such as high poverty or large numbers of English language learners. Common to these schools is a belief system that all children can learn, and that all staff members will work to help them achieve a high standard of learning. Consistent, school wide procedures that ensure learning for each student are followed. If learning is not taking place, it is considered an indicator that the instructional approach is not meeting the student's needs, or that the appropriate intervention has not been implemented for the student. In successful schools, the entire staff devotes time to promote this success. Solutions and strategies are implemented school-wide to help students achieve, and individual teachers adjust their instruction to guarantee a high standard of learning for all.

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