



WISE Tool: Ways to Improve School Effectiveness

District Improvement Success Indicators

District Context and Support

- IA01 The district includes civic and community leaders in school improvement planning and maintains regular communication with them.
- IA07 The district sets district, school, and student subgroup achievement targets.
- IA08 The school board and superintendent present a unified vision for school improvement.
- IA09 The superintendent and other central office staff are accountable for school improvement and student learning outcomes.
- IA10 The district regularly reallocates resources to support school, staff, and instructional improvement.
- IA11 The district ensures that key pieces of user-friendly data are available in a timely fashion at the district, school, and classroom levels.
- IA12 The district intervenes early when a school is not making adequate progress.
- IA13 The district works with the school to provide early and intensive intervention for students not making progress.
- IA14 The district recruits, trains, supports, and places personnel to competently address the problems of schools in need of improvement.

District and Change Process

- IB01 The district operates with district-level and school-level improvement teams.
- IB02 The district examines existing school improvement strategies being implemented across the district and determines their value, expanding, modifying, and culling as evidence suggests.
- IB07 The district ensures that the improvement plan includes research-based, field-proven programs, practices, and models.
- IB09 The district ensures that an empowered change agent (typically the principal) is appointed to head each rapid improvement school.
- IB10 The district ensures that the change agent (typically the principal) is skilled in motivating staff and the community, communicating clear expectations, and focusing on improved student learning.
- IB11 The district ensures that school improvement and restructuring plans include “quick wins”, early successes in improvement.
- IB12 The district is prepared for setbacks, resistance, and obstacles on the path to substantial improvement.

District-School Expectations

- IC01 The school reports and documents its progress monthly to the superintendent, and the superintendent reports the school’s progress to the school board.
- IC02 The district designates a central office contact person for the school, and that person maintains close communication with the school and an interest in its progress.
- IC05 The district provides a cohesive district curriculum guide/map aligned with state standards or otherwise places curricular expectations on the school.
- IC07 Professional development is built into the school schedule by the district, but the school is allowed discretion in selecting training and consultation that fit the requirements of its restructuring plan and its evolving needs.
- IC08 Staff development is built into the schedule for support staff (e.g., aides, clerks, custodians, cooks) as well as classroom teachers.