

3n. Achieving High Standards for All Students

Proven policies and practices for...

- Creating educational opportunities that address individual students' learning needs
- Providing supplemental supports for students to achieve high standards
- Using an ongoing assessment process to provide continuous feedback to students
- Challenging students at all grade and ability levels

POINTS

TOTAL = 10

3o. Partnering with Parents and Community Members for Improved Student Learning

Proven policies and practices for...

- Obtaining parent and community input for planning school and district improvement
- Involving parents in instructional decisions about their children's learning
- Expanding avenues for parents and the community to support student learning
- Engaging parents and community in schools in a meaningful way

POINTS

TOTAL = 10

3p. Can you think of any specific practices or strategies being used in your district for creating effective partnerships with parents and community members that you think are promising and would like to have evaluated for effectiveness?

Please describe briefly.

3q. Can you think of any promising practices or strategies for issues that were not included in this survey that you would like to have evaluated for effectiveness? Please describe briefly.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND OPINIONS

All responses will be kept strictly confidential and results will be published in summary form only.

Please return your survey in the envelope provided, to:

Gilmore Research Group
 2324 Eastlake Avenue East
 Suite 300
 Seattle, WA 98102



Finding the Strategies that Work: Asking Educators What the Research Agenda Should Be

Note: If you prefer to complete the survey online, logon at: <http://www.tobedetermined.org>. Be sure to use this six-digit access code when logging on:

Section 1 – Your District’s Experience in Identifying and Implementing Best Practices

In recent years a stronger focus has been placed on the use of data and research to drive instructional decision-making in classrooms, schools, and school districts. A primary focus of the Regional Educational Laboratories (REL), such as REL-Northwest, is to support educators in using data and research to identify, evaluate and implement successful practices appropriate for their schools and districts. We are interested in learning something about your district’s experiences in identifying and implementing best practices.

Please indicate to what extent each of the following is a problem for schools in your district by circling the appropriate rating 1-10 below.

1a. Identifying problem areas that impact student learning the most

Not a Problem Major Problem

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

If you rated this item 5 or higher, please explain why it is a problem. _____

1b. Finding practices that are likely to work in your district schools

Not a Problem Major Problem

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

If you rated this item 5 or higher, please explain why it is a problem. _____

1c. Implementing new practices as designed

Not a Problem Major Problem

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

If you rated this item 5 or higher, please explain why it is a problem. _____

1d. Achieving the results you were led to expect from new practices

Not a Problem Major Problem

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

If you rated this item 5 or higher, please explain why it is a problem. _____

Section 2 – Successes and Challenges for your District

2a. What is the single most important factor that has contributed to positive student performance in your district? Please describe briefly:

2b. What are you finding to be the biggest obstacles to improving student learning?

Please describe briefly:

Please allocate 10 points among the options for each question below, based on the kinds of research and best practices information that would be most useful to your district.

Section 3 – Identifying Research Needs for Northwest Schools

Recently Northwest educators identified eleven critical school improvement issues in the region that could be better informed by research. We are asking your assistance in identifying specifically where schools such as the ones in your district might benefit from having better evidence of successful practices that address these issues; practices that meet your district's unique needs.

There are four options listed below for each of the eleven issues. You have 10 points to allocate among the options in each set. You can assign each option any value from 0 to 10, including decimals. Give the most points to the option that would provide the greatest benefit to student learning in your district.

3a. Improving School Attendance

Proven policies and practices for...

Strengthening connections between home and school

POINTS

Dealing with the effects of family culture on school attendance

Creating school as a welcoming place for students and families

Developing a safety net of support systems for students that can promote improved attendance

TOTAL = 10

3b. Increasing High School Graduation Rates

Proven policies and practices for...

Early identification of students that may be at risk for eventually dropping out

POINTS

Providing supplemental supports (K-12) for students at risk for eventually dropping out

Working with parents and the community to improve graduation outcomes

Designing effective alternative education programs

TOTAL = 10

3c. Can you think of any specific practices or strategies being used in your district for improving school attendance and/or keeping students in school that you think are promising and would like to have evaluated for effectiveness? Please describe briefly.

Please describe briefly.

3d. Leading School Improvement

Proven policies and practices for...

Recruiting and retaining principals who can lead school improvement efforts

POINTS

Improving pre-service preparation of principals to lead improvement

Providing on-going professional development of principals to lead change efforts

Mentoring and coaching principals to lead improvement

TOTAL = 10

3e. Sustaining School and District Improvements

Proven policies and practices for...

Creating more opportunities for teacher collaboration on school improvement

POINTS

Developing staff support for changes in school programs and practices

Determining the resources and support my schools in my district need to carry out improvement efforts

Maintaining continuity of improvement efforts regardless of personnel changes

TOTAL = 10

3f. Can you think of any specific practices or strategies being used in your district for leading and/or sustaining school improvement efforts that you think are promising and would like to have evaluated for effectiveness? Please describe briefly.

Please describe briefly.

3g. Providing Effective Professional Development for Teachers

Proven policies and practices for...

Using on-going assessment in the classroom to align instruction with standards

POINTS

Developing teacher skills at self-evaluation and reflection to improve their classroom practices

Developing effective collaboration skills and techniques

Training teachers to partner effectively with parents to support student learning

TOTAL = 10

3h. Preparing Prospective Teachers to Teach Proven policies and practices for...

Preparing prospective teachers to be able to teach in a standards-based environment

POINTS

Preparing prospective teachers to be able to collaborate as teams to improve teaching and learning

Strengthening the content knowledge of prospective teachers in core academic areas

Preparing prospective teachers to be able to use school and classroom assessment to guide instructional practices

TOTAL = 10

3i. Can you think of any specific professional development practices or strategies for current and/or prospective teachers that you think are promising and would like to have evaluated for effectiveness? Please describe briefly.

3j. Improving Mathematics Instruction

Proven policies and practices for...

Providing instruction that fosters an understanding and application of content

POINTS

Providing challenging mathematics learning opportunities to address diverse learning styles and needs of students

Identifying mathematics teaching practices that would be effective in your school or district

Vertically aligning the mathematics curriculum from kindergarten through grade 12

TOTAL = 10

3k. Improving Science Instruction

Proven policies and practices for...

Teaching students to effectively apply scientific principles and processes

POINTS

Providing challenging science learning opportunities to address diverse learning styles and needs of students

Identifying science teaching practices that would be effective in your school or district

Vertically aligning the science curriculum from kindergarten through grade 12

TOTAL = 10

3l. Improving Literacy Instruction

Proven policies and practices for...

Integrating reading and writing across the curriculum

POINTS

Providing challenging literacy learning opportunities to address diverse learning styles and needs of students

Identifying literacy teaching practices that would be effective in your school or district

Vertically aligning the literacy curriculum from kindergarten through grade 12

TOTAL = 10

3m. Can you think of any specific practices or strategies for improving mathematics, science or literacy instruction being used in district that you think are promising and would like to have evaluated for effectiveness? Please describe briefly.

Please describe briefly.
