

**3n. Achieving High Standards for All Students**

**Provide policies and practices for...** POINTS

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL = 10**

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

**Provide policies and practices for...** POINTS

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

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**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.

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**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND OPINIONS**

Please return your survey in the envelope provided, to:  
Gilmore Research Group, 2324 Eastlake Avenue East, Suite 300, Seattle, WA 98102

Paperwork Burden Statement

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

Note: If you prefer to complete the survey online, log on at: <http://www.tobedetermined.org>. Please login using the six-digit code in the upper left-hand corner as your PIN number.

**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 REL-NW, which operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Education, is to help school districts 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 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Major Problem

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

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**1c. Implementing new practices as designed**

Not a Problem 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Major Problem

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

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

Not a Problem 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Major Problem

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

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

Not a Problem 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Major Problem

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

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**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:

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

Please describe briefly:

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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 issue. 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**

**P r o v e n p o l i c i e s a n d p r a c t i c e s f o r... POINTS**

- Strengthening connections between home and school \_\_\_\_\_
- 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**

**P r o v e n p o l i c i e s a n d p r a c t i c e s f o r...POINTS**

- Early identification of students that may be at risk for eventually dropping out \_\_\_\_\_
- 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.

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**3d. Leading School Improvement**

**P r o v e n p o l i c i e s a n d p r a c t i c e s f o r...POINTS**

- Recruiting and retaining principals who can lead school improvement efforts \_\_\_\_\_
- 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**

**P r o v e n p o l i c i e s a n d p r a c t i c e s f o r...POINTS**

- Creating more opportunities for teacher collaboration on school improvement \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 improvement efforts that you think are promising and would like to have evaluated for effectiveness?**

Please describe briefly.

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**3g. Providing Effective Professional Development for Teachers**

**P r o v e n p o l i c i e s a n d p r a c t i c e s f o r...POINTS**

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

**P r o v e n p o l i c i e s a n d p r a c t i c e s f o r...POINTS**

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

**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.

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**3j. Improving Mathematics Instruction**

**P r o v e n p o l i c i e s a n d p r a c t i c e s f o r...POINTS**

- Providing instruction that fosters an understanding and application of content \_\_\_\_\_
- 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**

**P r o v e n p o l i c i e s a n d p r a c t i c e s f o r...POINTS**

- Teaching students to effectively apply scientific principles and processes \_\_\_\_\_
- 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**

**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.

**3l.Improving Literacy Instruction**

**P r o v e n p o l i c i e s a n d p r a c t i c e s f o r...POINTS**

- Integrating reading and writing across the curriculum \_\_\_\_\_
- 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**

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