

## *Data-Driven School Improvement*

Schools in the *HSTW* network participate in the *HSTW* Assessment in even-numbered years. This NAEP-referenced assessment measures student achievement in reading, mathematics and science. It also includes a student survey related to students' educational experiences and a survey for all teachers. The data from the subject tests and surveys allow schools to relate student achievement to school and classroom practices and to refine their school improvement plans.

The *HSTW* Assessment is one of the largest school improvement assessments in the country, with more than 60,000 students participating.

## *Professional Development and Technical Assistance*

*HSTW* provides a variety of professional development, including national and regional workshops, technical assistance visits, on-site coaching and Webinars.

Professional development focuses on improving school and classroom practices, guidance and advisement, and school leadership. Technical assistance focuses on improving curriculum and instructional practices in academic and career/technical classrooms.



The *HSTW* Summer Staff Development Conference, held each July, brings more than 7,500 teachers, administrators, district and state leaders, and educational experts together to address school and classroom practices that improve student achievement, raise graduation rates, and result in more students graduating college- and career-ready.

## *SREB School Improvement Initiatives*

- *HSTW* State Network
- *HSTW* Direct Services Network
- *HSTW* Urban Initiative
- Learning-Centered Leadership Program
- *Making Middle Grades Work*
- Project Lead The Way®
- *Technology Centers That Work*
- Collaborative partnerships with states to improve high schools and middle grades schools

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Further information about *High Schools That Work* and other SREB School Improvement initiatives can be found online at [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org) or in the publication, *High Schools That Work: An Enhanced Design to Get All Students to Standards*, available online. Contact *High Schools That Work* at (404) 875-9211.

### *About SREB*

The Southern Regional Education Board is the nation's first interstate compact for education and currently serves 16 Southern states.

SREB assists state leaders in advancing education by directing attention to key issues; collecting, compiling and analyzing comparative data; and initiating studies and discussions that lead to recommendations for state and institutional action.

For more information, visit [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org).

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## *High Schools That Work*

### Supportive Networks and Services

# SREB

Southern Regional  
Education Board



*High Schools That Work*

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*HSTW* reflects a belief that, by combining rigorous academics and high-quality career/technical studies, schools can raise student achievement, improve graduation rates, and prepare more students for postsecondary studies and careers.

SREB's *High Schools That Work* (*HSTW*) school improvement program is nationally recognized for its effectiveness in helping schools improve the achievement of all students. *HSTW* partners with state and district agencies to raise achievement in more than 1,200 high schools in 31 states, including all 16 SREB states.

*HSTW* strives to engage state, district and school leaders in partnerships with teachers, students, parents and the community to raise student achievement. *HSTW* informs state and local leaders about policies and practices that improve high schools' ability to prepare students for college and careers and works with states, districts and schools to implement such practices.

*HSTW* provides an effort-based model for school improvement. The *HSTW* framework of Goals and Key Practices is built on the conviction that most students can master rigorous academic and career/technical studies if school leaders and teachers create an environment that motivates students to make the effort to succeed.

Schools in the *HSTW* network receive a variety of support services, including:

- technical assistance
- school-based coaching
- professional development workshops and conferences
- assessment tools and school data
- publications and research reports



## *HSTW Framework for School Improvement: Key Practices*

*HSTW* has identified a set of Key Practices that impact student achievement through development of multiple programs of study that prepare students for postsecondary studies and careers. These Key Practices provide direction and meaning to comprehensive school improvement:

**High expectations** — Motivate more students to meet higher standards by integrating high expectations into classroom practices and providing frequent feedback.

**Program of study** — Require each student to complete an upgraded academic core and a concentration.

**Academic studies** — Teach more students the essential concepts of the college-preparatory curriculum by encouraging them to apply academic content and skills to real-world problems and projects.

**Career/technical studies** — Provide more students access to intellectually challenging career/technical studies in high-demand fields that emphasize the higher-level academic and problem-solving skills needed in the workplace and in further education.

**Work-based learning** — Enable students and their parents to choose from programs that integrate challenging high school studies and work-based learning and are planned by educators, employers and students.

**Teachers working together** — Provide cross-disciplinary teams of teachers time and support to work together to help students succeed in challenging academic and career/technical studies.

**Students actively engaged** — Engage students in academic and career/technical classrooms in rigorous and challenging proficient-level assignments using research-based instructional strategies and technology.

**Guidance** — Involve students and their parents in a guidance and advisement system that develops positive relationships and ensures completion of an accelerated program of study with an academic or career/technical concentration.

**Extra help** — Provide a structured system of extra help to assist students in completing accelerated programs of study with high-level academic and technical content.

**Culture of continuous improvement** — Use data continually to improve school culture, organization, management, curriculum and instruction to advance student learning.

## *HSTW Goals for Continuous Improvement*

The mission of *HSTW* is to create a culture of high expectations that motivates students to make the effort to succeed in school. To achieve this mission, *HSTW* has set several goals for continuous improvement:

- Increase the percentage of high school students who meet college- and career-readiness goals to at least 85 percent.
- Increase the percentage of students completing the *HSTW*-recommended curriculum to 85 percent.
- Increase the percentage of high school students who complete high school in four years to 90 percent.
- Advance state and local policies and leadership initiatives that sustain a continuous school improvement effort.
- Help all students leave high school with an employer certification, postsecondary credit, or the knowledge and skills needed to avoid remedial postsecondary studies.