Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools

School turnaround is a process for helping chronically struggling schools raise student achievement dramatically and quickly, within one to three years.

A practice guide from the Institute of Education Sciences recommends four school turnaround practices.



Improved Leadership



- Hire new leader from inside or outside the system, or change leadership practices.
- -Communicate clear direction and expectations.
- -Demonstrate instructional leadership and accessibility.
- -Establish connections with the community.



Quick Wins

- -Identify areas that matter for rapid change.
- -Develop strategies for accomplishing goals quickly.
- -Consider goals set by other schools that led to quick wins.



Committed Staff



- -Recruit new staff.
- -Assess the strengths and weaknesses of staff.
- -Redeploy or reassign staff as needed.
- -Replace teachers who actively resist the change.



Focus on Instruction

- -Examine school-, classroom-, and student-level data.
- $-\mbox{\sc Provide}$ targeted and intensive professional development.
- —Modify instruction and provide interventions.
- Track progress and make adjustments.