

Key Actions for School Boards

a) Set clear expectations

- a. Get clear about the greatest student learning needs – the most important content area to improve first
- b. Believe more is possible and communicate high expectations
- c. Establish a clear and narrow focus for improvement – clarify improvement goals and specific targets
- d. Focus on student learning and teaching (improving teaching as the key strategy for improving learning)

b) Create conditions for success

- a. Demonstrate commitment to the improvement focus
- b. Support quality professional development
- c. Stay the course
- d. Support & connect with districtwide leadership
- e. Develop and nurture the board/superintendent team leadership

c) Hold the system accountable to the expectations

- a. Use data extensively
- b. Determine what you will accept as evidence of progress/success
- c. Monitor progress regularly
- d. Apply pressure for accountability

d) Build the public will

- a. Create awareness of the need
- b. Create urgency
- c. Instill hope that it's possible to change
- d. Connect with the community

e) Learn together as a board team

- a. Establish board learning time
- b. Learn together
- c. Talk to each other – extensive board conversations
- d. Develop a willingness and readiness to lead and allow others to lead
- e. Demonstrate commitment to the focus through board actions, decisions, and conversation
- f. Engage in deliberative policy development – lead through your policies