



HIGH SCHOOLS THAT WORK KEY PRACTICES

HSTW KEY PRACTICES FOR IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- High expectations** — Motivate more students to meet high expectations by integrating high expectations into classroom practices and giving students 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 mathematics, science, literacy 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 teams of teachers from several disciplines the time and support to work together to help students succeed in challenging academic and career/technical studies. Integrate reading, writing and speaking as strategies for learning into all parts of the curriculum and integrate mathematics into science and career/technical classrooms.
- 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. Provide each student with the same mentor throughout high school to assist with setting goals, selecting courses, reviewing the student's progress and suggesting appropriate interventions as necessary.
- 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 student assessment and program evaluation data to continuously improve school culture, organization, management, curriculum and instruction to advance student learning.

PRIMARY HSTW GOALS FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- 1 Increase to 85 percent the percentages of high school students who meet the HSTW reading, mathematics and science performance goals on a National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)-referenced exam.
- 1 Increase the percentages of *all* high school students who perform at the proficient level to at least 50 percent in reading, mathematics and science, as measured by the NAEP-referenced HSTW Assessment.
- 1 Increase to 85 percent the percentages of high school graduates who complete college-preparatory courses in mathematics, science, English/language arts and social studies and a concentration in an academic area, a career/technical area or a blend of the two.
- 1 Increase to 90 percent the percentages of high school students who enter grade nine and complete high school four years later.
- 1 Advance state and local policies and leadership initiatives that sustain a continuous school improvement effort.
- 1 Have all students leave high school with postsecondary credit or having met standards for postsecondary studies to avoid remedial courses.
- 1 Work in the middle grades to increase annually the percentages of students entering high school prepared to succeed in college-preparatory courses.

HSTW: Improving Georgia High Schools

