
HSTW Goals for Continuous Improvement

The mission of *High Schools That Work (HSTW)* is to create a culture of high expectations and continuous improvement in high school and the middle grades. To achieve this mission, *HSTW* has several goals:

- Increase to 85 percent the percentages of high school students who meet the *HSTW* reading, mathematics and science performance goals on the *HSTW* Assessment.
- 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 *HSTW* Assessment.
- Increase to 85 percent the percentages of high school graduates who complete *HSTW*-recommended curriculum and a concentration in an academic area, a career/technical area or a combination of the two.
- Increase to 90 percent the percentage of high school students who enter grade nine and complete high school four years later.
- Advance state and local policies and leadership initiatives that sustain a continuous school improvement effort.
- Have all students leave high school with postsecondary credit or having met standards for postsecondary studies to avoid remedial courses.
- Work in the middle grades to increase annually the percentage of students entering high school prepared to succeed in college-preparatory courses.

HSTW Key Practices

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 with 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 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.



*High Schools
That Work*

SREB

Southern
Regional
Education
Board