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## **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.