

Buckeye Valley Middle School Wins Pacesetter Award

School honored for creating systems and processes that support a culture of continuous improvement and high expectations

July 10, 2019 — Buckeye Valley Middle School in Delaware, Ohio, is the winner of a 2019 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. The school was honored at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference on July 10 in Baltimore, Maryland.

Pacesetter School Awards recognize schools that are implementing one of SREB's Making Schools Work school improvement frameworks and are achieving success in meeting bold goals related to increases in student graduation rates, readiness for college or careers, and credential attainment.

Buckeye Valley Middle School has implemented many of SREB's Making Middle Grades Work key practices in the past few years with a strong focus on continuous improvement, effective instructional leadership and quality professional development.

The school introduced a new grading philosophy using points instead of percentages and weights, eliminated zeros, implemented a "50 floor" for all grades, allowed retakes within certain parameters and emphasized reading and writing across the curricula. Over the last two years, grade consistency and transparency have improved; Fs decreased from 8 percent to 2 percent, and student absences decreased by 33 percent.

The Making Schools Work Conference brings together educators from schools that are implementing the instructional strategies of SREB's school improvement programs. These schools have increased their focus on quality career and technical education by redesigning assignments around projects that integrate academic and technical knowledge and skills.

The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve public education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at sreb.org.

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