

East High School Wins 2022 Pacesetter School Award

School honored for increasing attendance and graduation rates

July 19, 2022 — East High School in Youngstown, Ohio, is the winner of a 2022 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Education Board. East High School will be honored on July 19, 2022, at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

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 graduation rates, readiness for college and careers, and credential attainment.

East High School implements [High Schools That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for high schools. In 2017, new school administrators accepted the challenge to turn around the struggling school in three years. They targeted three goals: ensuring students attend school, graduate on time and meet graduation requirements.

Widespread attendance issues impeded student success, prompting the high school to first focus on getting students in school. Administrators imagined an attendance intervention approach called the East High School Success Team, comprised of school and community-based organizations with a commitment to reaching out to students who are not in school. The Success Team approach has improved attendance rates from 71.1% in 2020 to 88.4% in 2021, even during mandatory virtual learning for all students.

Administrators also established high expectations for all seniors to meet Ohio's graduation requirements by earning Ohio Seals for Graduation and demonstrating their academic, technical and professional readiness for careers, college, the military or self-sustaining professions. A graduation team at the school now helps students and parents design individual graduation plans for each senior to ensure they graduate on time. This has required seniors and families to sign contracts pledging to adhere to their graduation plans.

After several months, more students passed end-of-course assessments and earned missing credits. East High School also increased its graduation rate from 68.6% in 2017 to 84.7% in 2021. The attendance rate of 83.9% was the highest in the district and the highest of all eight urban school districts in Ohio.

SREB's [Making Schools Work Conference](#) is held annually and provides educators with opportunities to participate in professional development, network with colleagues from across the country, and build school and district leadership capacity.

The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at sreb.org. SREB media contact: Alan.Richard@SREB.org, (404) 879-5528.



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