

# Connecting Classrooms, Careers and College

*Preparing students for success with SREB's new High Schools That Work design*



**SREB**

School  
Improvement

# The pool of jobs available to those with only a high school diploma is shrinking.

About two out of every three jobs now require some postsecondary education and training. And by 2025, demand for Americans with a credential or degree after high school is expected to exceed supply by as many as 11 million.

There is no disputing that young people benefit from **connected learning experiences** that equip them with the lifelong learning skills needed to secure good jobs and a middle-class life.

*“All students can succeed when the whole school comes together to create rich, connected learning experiences that help students find a sense of purpose for their studies and their lives.”*

— Gene Bottoms, Senior Vice President, SREB



**For more than 30 years**, SREB has partnered with states, districts and schools to identify and implement strategies that empower young people to put what they learn in the classroom to work in the real world.

Our efforts began in 1987 with High Schools That Work, SREB's premier school improvement design. HSTW is a proven, comprehensive approach to creating learning environments that empower youth to identify their goals, earn credentials and degrees, and embark on careers.

Since 1987, we've continuously refined the HSTW design and our related school improvement services. Individually, these services address specific needs and areas. **When adopted as part of the HSTW design, they represent a complete, multi-faceted approach to school improvement.**

Best of all, by putting a strong focus on career pathways, HSTW helps students make the essential connection between college-ready academics and careers – the connection that's needed to engage students fully in their education.



## What SREB offers schools

SREB's approach to school improvement helps schools prepare students for college and careers by:

- aligning instruction with grade-level college- and career-readiness standards
- connecting classroom learning with real-world problems
- using instructional time to meet students' unique needs
- empowering teachers to co-plan instruction and assignments within and across disciplines
- offering developmentally appropriate career exploration
- personalizing learning to reflect students' interests
- accelerating credential and degree attainment

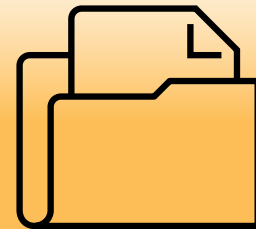
## What makes SREB different

*SREB is trusted.* Thousands of schools have used HSTW to transform teaching and learning. SREB's school improvement frameworks and curricula reflect the higher levels of academic, technical, technological and personal skills required for college and career success.

*SREB has deep expertise in policy.* SREB can help you meet federal guidelines for accountability, well-rounded academic and technical studies, career guidance and counseling, and teacher preparation and development. SREB consultants help states design career pathways that align with requirements in the Perkins Act and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

*SREB is affordable.* SREB is a nonprofit, and many of our school improvement services can be offered through grant funding at no cost to districts or schools.

**Elementary Schools** • **Middle Grades** • **High Schools** • **Technology Centers** • **Community & Technical Colleges**



### We help states, districts and schools...

- Grades 3-12 teachers, counselors and school leaders
- State and district education agency personnel
- Postsecondary partners
- State policymakers

**We help employer partners, too... by involving them in designing career pathways and delivering real-world learning experiences**

### ...meet college- and career-readiness goals...

- Strengthening foundational literacy, math and science skills
- Creating career pathways that help students earn credentials and degrees and secure good jobs
- Preparing and supporting effective teachers and school leaders
- Transforming school systems, structures and cultures to improve student achievement

### ...by providing a portfolio of tested tools and strategies

- Comprehensive school improvement frameworks
- Professional development and instructional coaching services
- Research-based curriculum designs
- Expert technical assistance

# School Improvement Frameworks

## Connect careers and college with the new High Schools That Work HS TC CTC

High Schools That Work connects college-ready academics, challenging career pathways and hands-on workplace learning to credentials and degrees and emerging career opportunities. Principals, teachers and counselors use powerful instructional strategies, curricula and professional development to reorganize instruction around rigorous assignments. Students master academic, technical, technological, cognitive and workplace skills and graduate ready for college and careers. HSTW has shown more than 4,000 schools in 36 states how to transform school cultures and boost achievement.



## Accelerate high school readiness in the middle grades MG

Our Making Middle Grades Work program engages the whole school in getting students ready for challenging high school studies. Starting in the sixth grade, struggling students participate in accelerated learning experiences that help them master grade-level literacy and math skills and see the connections between their academic work, personal interests and potential careers. MMGW students complete Algebra I or take Readiness Courses that help them get on track for high school.

## Jump start credentials and careers at technology centers HS TC CTC

SREB's Technology Centers That Work program unites centers, home high schools and postsecondary institutions around career pathways that give students a head start on a high-demand credential or degree. Career pathway teachers work with literacy and math teachers at the home school or technology center to embed college-ready academics in instruction. TCTW can also be adapted to suit full-time centers, extended-day or extended-year programs, and 13th-year programs.

## Promote STEM learning with Advanced Career academies HS TC CTC

High schools or technology centers adopting any of SREB's nine Advanced Career pathway programs can offer them in stand-alone or wall-to-wall career academy settings. Professional development, coaching and technical assistance help schools build schedules that support student cohorts and interdisciplinary teacher planning. Students have time to explore careers and complete exciting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) projects with employer mentors. A dedicated help desk answers teachers' questions about AC technology tools and supports school leaders with all aspects of career academy implementation.

## Get ready for careers or college with a redesigned senior year HS TC CTC

SREB's Senior-Year Redesign transforms high schools into launching pads to credentials and degrees. Four readiness options prepare students for postsecondary studies. College-ready seniors take dual enrollment courses totaling up to 30 credits toward a credential or degree. Seniors who need extra help in literacy and math receive personalized support and take Readiness Courses that prepare them to graduate with up to 15 college credits or transition to further education or good jobs.

### HSTW'S NINE KEY PRACTICES

#### With HSTW, schools offer:

- A college-ready core connected to a career pathway
- Ongoing, standards-driven professional development
- Extended learning time and personalized supports
- Readiness courses for struggling students
- Project-based assignments
- Work-based learning
- Hands-on career exploration and advisement
- A redesigned senior year that accelerates credential and degree attainment
- A shared commitment to college and career readiness

# Professional Development and Instructional Coaching



## Strengthen literacy and academic achievement ES MG HS TC

The Literacy Design Collaborative instructional tools and strategies enable teachers in all disciplines, grades three through 12, to increase students' literacy achievement and content knowledge. Supported by ongoing coaching and professional development, teachers create assignments that engage students in reading diverse grade-level texts and expressing their understanding of those texts in oral and written form.

## Build math knowledge and reasoning skills ES MG HS TC

Math teachers who adopt the Mathematics Design Collaborative's balanced approach to math instruction enhance their students' procedural fluency and ability to apply math knowledge and reasoning skills to solve problems. Expert coaching shows teachers how to use formative assessment lessons to correct misunderstandings and engage students in a productive struggle.



## Equip career pathway teachers for classroom success HS TC

SREB's Teaching to Lead teacher preparation program helps professionals from business and industry become great teachers. Teaching to Lead builds new and early-career teachers' capacity to design standards-focused instruction and use strategies like project-based learning and experiential learning. Intensive, ongoing professional development and instructional coaching build teacher confidence in engaging students and managing classrooms.

## Connect and apply knowledge through project-based learning MG HS TC

Project-based learning captures students' interests and helps them connect their academic learning with their career and college goals. SREB's project-based learning coaches work with teams of academic and career pathway teachers in schools and technology centers to develop projects that encourage students to think critically and apply academic, technical and workplace know-how to solve problems.

## Counsel students about their career and college choices MG HS TC CTC

When careers are a focus of school counseling, students connect education with achieving their goals. Workshops, materials and coaching from SREB's Counseling for Careers and College program show counselors and teachers how to create curricula and experiences that awaken students to their aptitudes and interests. They also promote collaboration with students and parents to develop personalized plans of study.

## Develop transformational school leaders ES MG HS TC

SREB's professional development and coaching services help principals support teachers in designing standards-driven assignments that build students' literacy and math skills. Principals learn how to work with career pathway teachers to craft project-based assignments that connect academics to the real world. Principals learn how to conduct classroom observations using rubrics that help them identify good instruction and provide helpful feedback. Coaching helps principals organize career academies and create effective counseling systems. SREB's Learning-Centered Leadership program develops current or aspiring principals' capacity to lead school turnaround efforts.

# Curricula and Professional Development

## Prepare students for tomorrow's jobs with Advanced Career HS TC CTC

Co-designed with state leaders, postsecondary educators, employers and master teachers, each of SREB's nine Advanced Career curricula consists of four courses featuring fully developed lesson plans, projects and assessments. As complete programs of study, AC's college-preparatory, STEM-intensive pathways are taught in the context of a college-ready academic core. Through AC summer institutes and ongoing professional development, AC teachers learn course content by completing the same projects as their students.

## Launch STEM careers with middle grades courses MG

SREB is designing two middle grades STEM courses around 12 projects that introduce students to the principles of scientific inquiry and the engineering design process. Schools can also teach the projects individually. All projects require students to work in teams to conduct research, develop and test prototypes, analyze data and make presentations. (Available fall 2018)

## Enhance literacy and math skills with Readiness Courses MG HS TC

SREB's Readiness Courses help struggling students master foundational literacy and mathematics skills as they make critical transitions from the middle grades to high school and from high school to postsecondary studies.

In Ready for High School Literacy, eighth- or ninth-graders acquire strategies for reading and writing about complex texts. Eighth- or ninth-graders in Ready for High School Math learn why to use certain math formulas to solve problems.

In Literacy Ready, seniors develop and defend ideas from varied texts and write about those ideas at a college level. Math Ready develops critical-thinking skills and engages seniors in applying math to real-world problems.

## Technical Assistance ES MG HS TC CTC

SREB's technical assistance services increase the percentage of graduates who are ready for college and careers. SREB offers curriculum and instruction audits, which look at the whole school, along with career pathway audits, which assess the alignment of pathways with college-ready academics, postsecondary programs and good jobs. These audits can be conducted together or separately. Most audits include classroom observations, teacher and student surveys, data collection and stakeholder interviews. In site development workshops, principals, teachers and counselors work in teams to use data to design school improvement plans.

## NINE ADVANCED CAREER PATHWAYS

- Aerospace Engineering
- Automated Materials Joining Technology
- Clean Energy Technology
- Energy and Power
- Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- Health Informatics
- Informatics
- Innovations in Science and Technology
- Integrated Production Technologies

[sreb.org/ACcurricula](http://sreb.org/ACcurricula)



## Here are just a few examples of how we help schools transform teaching and learning.

**By embracing the High Schools That Work framework**, Georgia's Meadowcreek High School broke down barriers between academic and career pathway teachers and community partners. More students are performing at Level 3 or better in the school's expanded array of Advanced Placement courses. Meadowcreek "enabled me to change my mind about my potential and what I could do," reported one student.

**Teachers say Advanced Career** flips the switch for engagement. "We have six minutes between classes. During the prototype phase of our 'Science of Survival' project, students were in class and working within three minutes of the bell," said one Arkansas AC Innovations in Science and Technology teacher. "Student engagement was off the charts."

**Students avoid remediation** with SREB's Readiness Courses. In a before-and-after look at scores in several schools in Arkansas and Mississippi, more than half of students who took Literacy Ready increased their ACT scores, by an average of 3 points in English and 3.6 points in science. About 60 percent of seniors who took Math Ready increased their scores, by an average of 2.4 points in math and 3.5 points in science.

**Poor exam scores threatened to close** one Mississippi teacher's agriculture program. By scaffolding instruction around the Literacy Design Collaborative strategies, this teacher increased student achievement and turned his technology center into the highest performing in the state.

*"When kids are enjoying writing so much that they want to do it a second day, you are doing something right."*

— Mississippi LDC teacher

### Let's talk about how SREB can help you reach your school improvement goals.

**Gene Bottoms**

Gene.Bottoms@SREB.org, 404.879.5549

**Dale Winkler**

Dale.Winkler@SREB.org, 404.879.5529

