

2024 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter Award CRITERIA AND NOMINATION PROCESS

SREB's Making Schools Work school improvement process employs a distributed leadership approach to involve the whole school in identifying problems of practice that impact student engagement and achievement and developing plans to solve them.

With designs for elementary grades, middle grades, high schools and technology centers, Making Schools Work empowers school teams to create improvement plans that address **five focus areas**:

- engaging students through **quality instruction**
- **aligning curricula** with state readiness standards
- ensuring that students can **explore careers** and **complete career pathways** that align with their interests and aptitudes
- providing **student supports** that promote readiness
- creating and supporting **cultures of continuous improvement**

At the Making Schools Work Conference, SREB will recognize outstanding high schools, technology centers, middle schools and elementary schools that have implemented the key practices with fidelity and are achieving success in meeting bold goals related to graduation, readiness, and credential attainment. We will also recognize an overall district and a state department of education who have utilized Making Schools Work frameworks to improve student outcomes. All nominations must be received by **January 31, 2024**. Please send nomination forms to Nakeisha Myers (nakeisha.myers@sreb.org)

To be recognized as an outstanding site, schools and centers must:

- Be an active member of the Making Schools Work network for two consecutive years;
- Administer the MSW student and teacher surveys;
- Provide evidence of implementing with fidelity one of the key practices;
- Provide evidence of student achievement; and
- Participate in the staff development conference and present a session aligned to the key practice for which the school is being recognized.

High School and Tech Center Key Practices

1. Create a **culture of high expectations** in every classroom and throughout the school.
2. Ensure each student develops and completes a **personalized program of study** that leads to postsecondary and career success.
3. Teach academic content through the lens of **real-world problems and projects**.
4. Ensure that all students, including underrepresented and nontraditional students, have **access to high-quality career pathways**.
5. Use research-based instructional strategies and innovative technology practices to **engage each student**.
6. Provide **teams of teachers with training, time and support** to work together to improve instruction.
7. Provide each student with a continuum of **real-world learning experiences** that connect classroom and workplace learning.
8. Offer **guidance and advisement** that empowers students to pursue a full range of career and college options after high school.
9. Provide students with the **extra help or accelerated learning strategies** they need to graduate college and career ready.

10. Engage the whole school community in **continuously using data** to identify problems and develop plans to solve them.

Middle School Key Practices

1. Create a **culture of high expectations** in which each student has equitable access to resources and opportunities to complete rigorous course work.
2. Teach each student through **engaging assignments** that align with grade-level standards.
3. Integrate **literacy strategies** in all subject areas.
4. Use a **balanced approach to teaching math**.
5. Provide each student with **inquiry-based science** instruction and **rich STEM learning experiences**.
6. Reframe how students understand and interpret the world through an **intellectually demanding social studies curriculum**.
7. Engage each student in **career exploration** experiences.
8. Provide **systems of support and enrichment** that help each student prepare for high school success.
9. Offer **comprehensive guidance** for each student.
10. Create a **culture of continuous improvement** in which instructional leaders help good teachers become great teachers.

Elementary School Key Practices

1. Create a **culture that inspires learning** and promotes excellence for each student, teacher and member of the school community.
2. Design and deliver instruction in which both the content being taught and the instructional choices teachers make help students understand the full **intent of the standards**.
3. Design and deliver instruction that promotes the development of literacy skills by **integrating literacy standards** in all content areas.
4. Design and provide robust, standards-driven instruction that challenges students to complete **high-quality assignments** across the curriculum.
5. Provide the time, structures and supports for teachers to **collaboratively plan** instruction, assignments and assessments that address the unique needs of each student.
6. Provide each student with **authentic learning experiences** that tap into children's natural curiosity and spark awareness of their community, country and world.
7. Establish meaningful **opportunities for parents and community partners** to support teaching and learning at the school.
8. Ensure each student is prepared for educational success through access to high-quality academic and social-emotional **counseling and support services**.
9. **Support each child and family** in the school community with the curricular, instructional and social-emotional resources they need to thrive.
10. Provide effective instructional leadership that establishes, cultivates and sustains the shared vision and mission of the school and engages the whole school community in using data to identify problems, develop and implement plans to solve these problems and monitor progress as part of a **continuous improvement process**.

A District Approach to Improvement

Promote Student Effort With Making Schools Work Key Practices



Focus Area	Elementary Grades	Middle Grades	High Schools	Technology Centers
Engaging Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Engaging Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Engagement
	<input type="checkbox"/> Instructional Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Collaboration
Aligned Curriculum	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Access and Equity	<input type="checkbox"/> Access and Equity
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aligned Curriculum	<input type="checkbox"/> Aligned Curriculum	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Curriculum	<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Curriculum
Career Pathways	<input type="checkbox"/> Access and Equity	<input type="checkbox"/> Access and Equity	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs of Study	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs of Study
	<input type="checkbox"/> Career Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Quality Career and Technical Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Work-Based Learning	<input type="checkbox"/> Work-Based Learning
Systems of Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Systems of Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidance and Advisement	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidance and Advisement	<input type="checkbox"/> Guidance and Advisement
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parents and Communities	<input type="checkbox"/> Interventions and Enrichments	<input type="checkbox"/> Interventions and Enrichments	<input type="checkbox"/> Interventions and Enrichments
Leadership for Continuous Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership for Continuous Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Culture of Continuous Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Culture of Continuous Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Culture of Continuous Improvement
	<input type="checkbox"/> Culture of Learning	<input type="checkbox"/> High Expectations	<input type="checkbox"/> High Expectations	<input type="checkbox"/> High Expectations

2024 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Awards

NOMINATION FORM

Nominator

Name:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	

Nominee

School, District, or State DOE Name:	
Principal/School Leader's Name:	
School or Center's Address:	
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	

Please indicate which of the following best describes the educational entity you are nominating:

<input type="checkbox"/>	High School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elementary School
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Center
<input type="checkbox"/>	District Level
<input type="checkbox"/>	State Level

Answer the following by marking Yes or No.	Yes	No
Has the school demonstrated engagement in SREB's Making Schools Work network by:		
• Implementing SREB's Making Schools Work frameworks of key practices;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Partnering with SREB in school improvement efforts in the last two years;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Participating in SREB's student and teacher surveys ;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Attending the Making Schools Work Conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can the school provide evidence showing student success related to the implementation of SREB's key practices?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the school willing to submit and present a session at the 2024 Making Schools Work Conference highlighting its successes related to a key focus area/conference objective?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please provide the name and email address of an individual at the state or regional level who can speak to your school's improvement efforts:</p> <p>Name: _____ Email: _____</p>		

Please indicate the focus area (conference objective) and key practices for which the school, district, or state is being nominated for recognition:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engaging Instruction – Ensures each student is engaged in all classrooms via quality instruction aligned to grade-level or above standards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aligned Curriculum – Provides each student access to a curriculum aligned to readiness standards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Career Pathways – Ensures each student has access to and completes high-quality career pathways aligned to student interests and aptitudes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Systems of Support – Ensures each student receives appropriate support to graduate college and career ready.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continuous Improvement – Leadership establishes systems and processes to support a culture of continuous improvement.

In 1,000 words or less, please describe how the leadership has supported elementary, middle grades, high schools or career and technology centers to successfully implement changes in school and classroom practices by addressing the focus area(s) and key practice(s) above. Please include evidence and data supporting the impact the changes had on student success.

Please send completed forms to Nakeisha.Myers@sreb.org by January 31, 2024.



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