

Indian Valley High School Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

School honored for establishing systems to support continuous improvement

June 30, 2020 — Indian Valley High School in Gnadenhutten, Ohio, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. IVHS will be honored on July 6, 2021, at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, due to the cancellation of the 2020 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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 and careers, and credential attainment.

Indian Valley High School implements [High Schools That Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for high schools, as part of the state's HSTW Northeast Ohio Region. IVHS has improved student achievement through a sustained focus on continuous improvement that targets standards-based instruction, professional learning communities, co-teaching and an innovative master schedule, among other strategies.

With support from SREB, IVHS trained all of its math teachers in how to use [powerful math practices](#) to adopt a balanced approach to math instruction. Teachers who take a balanced approach to math instruction use formative assessment lessons to check students' understanding of math concepts and correct any misunderstandings. Questioning and feedback strategies help students develop a deeper understanding of math.

Principal Rob Clarke also made changes in the way math courses were taught. For example, instead of one teacher teaching Algebra I, he assigned two teachers to the course. Teacher collaboration contributed to an increase in students' performance.

IVHS also adopted a master schedule that allowed teachers to form professional learning communities and hold weekly meetings.

IVHS has enjoyed significant improvements on students' performance on its Ohio School Report Card over the past three years. In 2016-17, the school's performance index score was 68%; it grew to 73% in 2017-18 and 89% in 2018-19.

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.