

ELEMENTARY GRADES KEY PRACTICES

SREB's **Making Schools Work school improvement process** is grounded in research showing that increasing student achievement begins with increasing student effort. In the elementary grades, teachers, leaders and staff come together to focus on *leadership for continuous improvement, aligned curriculum, engaging instruction, career exploration and systems of support*.

SREB has identified 10 key school and classroom practices that help elementary schools build their capacity to continuously address problems and meet clear targets for student success.

1 **Culture of Learning** — Create a culture that inspires learning and promotes excellence for students, teachers and the school community.
— *Leadership for Continuous Improvement*

2 **Aligned Curriculum** — Design and deliver instruction that helps students understand the full intent of the standards.
— *Aligned Curriculum*

3 **Integrated Literacy** — Design and deliver instruction that promotes the development of literacy skills by integrating literacy standards in all content areas.
— *Aligned Curriculum*

4 **Engaging Instruction** — Design and provide robust, standards-driven instruction that challenges students to complete high-quality assignments.
— *Engaging Instruction*

5 **Instructional Collaboration** — Provide the time, structures and supports for teachers to collaboratively plan instruction, assignments and assessments.
— *Engaging Instruction*

6 **Career Awareness** — Provide each student with authentic learning experiences that tap into children's natural curiosity and spark awareness of their community, country and world.
— *Career Pathways*

7 **Parents and Communities** — Establish meaningful opportunities for parents and community partners to support teaching and learning.
— *Systems of Support*

8 **Systems of Support** — Provide high-quality academic and social-emotional counseling and support services that prepare each student for educational success.
— *Systems of Support*

9 **Access and Equity** — Support each child and family with the curricular, instructional and social-emotional resources they need to thrive.
— *Career Pathways*

10 **Leadership for Continuous Improvement** — Engage the whole school community in using data to identify problems and developing plans to solve them.
— *Leadership for Continuous Improvement*



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