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.

**Elementary Grades Key Practices**

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