

# MIDDLE GRADES KEY PRACTICES

As part of SREB's Making Schools Work school improvement process, Making Middle Grades Work brings teachers, leaders and staff 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 provide middle grades students with purpose, direction and opportunities to engage in accelerated learning and prepare for success in high school, further education and life.

1

**High Expectations** — Inspire each student to complete intellectually demanding courses that prepare them for success in high school.  
— *Leadership for Continuous Improvement*

6

**Teacher Collaboration** — Provide teacher teams with the training, time and support they need to work together to improve instruction.  
— *Engaging Instruction*

2

**Aligned Curriculum** — Design and deliver instruction that helps each student achieve the full intent of state standards.  
— *Aligned Curriculum*

7

**Quality Career and Technical Education** — Provide career exploration experiences that prepare each student to make informed career pathway choices.  
— *Career Pathways*

3

**Integrated Literacy** — Help teachers in all disciplines integrate literacy strategies into their instruction, assignments and assessments.  
— *Aligned Curriculum*

8

**Guidance and Advisement** — Provide guidance programs that empower each student to transition successfully to the next grade.  
— *Systems of Support*

4

**Access and Equity** — Ensure each student, including underrepresented and nontraditional students, has access to high-quality courses, instruction and resources.  
— *Career Pathways*

9

**Interventions and Enrichments** — Personalize supports for each student based on their unique identified needs.  
— *Systems of Support*

5

**Student Engagement** — Use research-based instructional strategies and innovative technology practices to actively engage each student.  
— *Engaging Instruction*

10

**Culture of Continuous Improvement** — Engage the whole school community in continuously analyzing data to identify problems and developing action plans to solve them.  
— *Leadership for Continuous Improvement*



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