

Wilkerson Middle School Wins 2022 Pacesetter School Award

School honored for its engaging instruction and continuous improvement efforts

July 19, 2022 —Malachi Wilkerson Middle School in Birmingham, Alabama, is the winner of a 2022 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Education Board. The school will be honored on July 19, 2022, at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Grapevine, Texas.

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 graduation rates, readiness for college and careers, and credential attainment.

Wilkerson Middle School implements [Making Middle Grades Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for the middle grades. Wilkerson places a schoolwide focus on improving student achievement by creating and sustaining a climate and culture that promotes teaching and learning through multi-tiered support systems.

The school provides ongoing job-embedded professional development in preparing teachers to employ standards-based instruction and break those standards down into learning goals and activities. The school's leadership team conducts monthly walkthroughs and observations and shares reflective feedback with teachers to ensure there the school maintains a strategic focus on literacy in all content areas. With a philosophy of "what gets measured, gets approved," team leaders at Wilkerson hold weekly professional learning community meetings to discuss data related to student mastery of standards and address learning deficits.

Students are challenged with higher-order thinking skills, use integrated technology and guiding questions that are enhanced through evidence-based instructional strategies. Students are also given opportunities to extend their knowledge through real-life connections to the community and a focus on inquiry-based and project-based learning. Teachers create formative and summative assessments that measure students' understanding and achievement.

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.



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