

High School Initiatives: Web Resources

The following list consists of centers/associations and reform program/models that focus on high school redesign as well as some other useful links for overall school reform information.

Centers/Associations

Achieve, Inc.

Achieve works to help states raise academic standards and achievement so that all students graduate with college and work-readiness skills. Its main initiative is the American Diploma Project (ADP) Network, which includes 32 states that are working to align curriculum, standards, and accountability policies to ensure that each high school graduate is prepared for college or work.

Website: www.achieve.org

Alliance for Excellent Education

The Alliance for Excellent Education works to promote high school redesign initiatives to ensure that each child graduates with college and work-readiness skills. The Alliance for Excellent Education focuses on at-risk high school students who are most likely to drop out or graduate unprepared for life.

Website: www.all4ed.org

Communities In Schools

Communities In Schools (CIS) is the largest dropout prevention organization in the United States. CIS identifies the unmet needs of students and their families that may contribute to the dropout rate and facilitates community involvement to meet those needs and support student performance.

Website: www.cisnet.org

International Center for Leadership in Education

The International Center for Leadership in Education bases its work on the idea that a transformation of the education system is needed to prepare today's students to be successful in postsecondary life. The center helps schools and districts implement organizational changes that lead to improved curriculum, instruction, and assessment systems.

Website: www.icle.net

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET)

“The National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) coordinates national resources, offers technical assistance, and disseminates information related to secondary education and transition for youth with disabilities in order to create opportunities for youth to achieve successful futures.”

Website: www.ncset.org

National Dropout Prevention Center/Network

The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network serves “as a research center and resource network for practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to reshape school and community environments to meet the needs of youth in at-risk situations so these students receive the quality education and services necessary to succeed academically and graduate from high school.”

Website: www.dropoutprevention.org/ndpcdefault.htm

National Dropout Prevention Center for Students With Disabilities

“The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students With Disabilities (NDPC-SD) was established in 2004 by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) as part of OSEP’s Technical Assistance and Dissemination (TA&D) Network, which supports the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). NDPC-SD was specifically established to assist in building states’ capacity to increase school completion rates for students with disabilities through knowledge synthesis, technical assistance, and dissemination of interventions and practices that work.”

Website: www.ndpc-sd.org

National Governors Association – High School Redesign Initiative

The National Governors Association (NGA) identified high school redesign as a 2005 initiative, and its Center for Best Practices released a plan (*Action Agenda for Improving America’s High Schools*) for ensuring college and work readiness of the nation’s high school students. Its five major recommendations guide current state efforts and are supported by the NGA Center’s Honor States Grant Program.

Website: www.nga.org

National High School Alliance

The National High School Alliance (HS Alliance) consists of nearly 50 organizations working to promote high school redesign. The HS Alliance report, *A Call to Action: Transforming High Schools for All Youth*, identifies six core principles for transforming high schools and provides high school reform information and research.

Website: www.hsalliance.org

National High School Center

The National High School Center is one of the national content centers and is a main source of information, expertise, and research on high school redesign issues. The National High School Center has information on effective programs, tools, and products and supports the use of research-based approaches in high school reform.

Website: www.betterhighschools.org

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

“The mission of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education is to promote academic excellence; enhance educational opportunities and equity for all of America’s children and families; and to improve the quality of teaching and learning by providing leadership, technical assistance, and financial support.”

Website: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/oese/index.html

What Works Clearinghouse

The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) houses a wealth of knowledge about what works in education, including reviews and research on the effectiveness of various educational intervention programs and policies. The WWC promotes the use of its research-based educational data for informed education decisions to improve student performance.

Website: ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/

High School Reform Programs/Models

Breaking Ranks II: Strategies for Leading High School Reform

Breaking Ranks II is the follow-up to the National Association of Secondary School Principals' *Breaking Ranks: Changing an American Institution*. *Breaking Ranks II* focuses specifically on high school reform and stresses academic rigor, personalized learning environments, and collaborative leadership.

Website: www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec_inside.asp?CID=563&DID=48223

High Schools That Work

High Schools That Work (HSTW) is one of the largest school improvement initiatives for high school and middle school educators and is administered by the Southern Regional Education Board. There are currently more than 1,200 schools in 32 states that are using the HSTW framework, which aims to improve student performance.

Website: www.sreb.org/Programs/hstw/hstwindex.asp

Jobs for the Future

Jobs for the Future is a research, consulting, and advocacy nonprofit organization focused on educational and economic opportunities for youth and adults.

Website: www.jff.org

Project Lead the Way

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) has developed a four-year hands-on and project-focused STEM course. PLTW introduces students to the fields of engineering and technology and is combined with college preparatory mathematics and science courses.

Website: www.pltw.org

Talent Development High Schools

The Talent Development High School Model is a high school reform model developed by the Center for Social Organization of Schools at Johns Hopkins University consisting of organizational and management changes, innovations in curriculum and instruction, a parent and community involvement component, and a focus on professional development to support the overall reform.

Website: www.csos.jhu.edu/tdhs

New Technology Foundation/New Technology High Schools

The New Technology Foundation provides support, training, tools, and materials for high school reform using the New Technology High School model.

Website: <http://www.newtechfoundation.org/index.html>

Other Education Resources

Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Center

The Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Center provides support to states and districts in the implementation, evaluation, and improvement of their assessment and accountability systems in order to fulfill the requirements of No Child Left Behind.

Website: www.aacompcenter.org

Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement

The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement supports states and districts working on comprehensive school reform and improvement and provides research-based strategies and assistance to help those districts facilitate positive change.

Website: www.centerforsri.org

Center for Education Policy

The Center for Education Policy “studies new models for education reform, adult education systems, and initiatives to raise the quality of teaching.”

Website: policyweb.sri.com/cep/

Center on Innovation and Improvement

The Center on Innovation and Improvement provides a wide-range of assistance to regional comprehensive centers on topics such as restructuring, state evaluation of SES providers, SES parent outreach, and statewide systems of support.

Website: www.centerii.org

Center on Instruction

The Center on Instruction supports the regional comprehensive centers to improve teaching and learning for all students. The center provides resources on NCLB and best practices, special education and English language learner instruction, professional development opportunities, and scientific research into instruction.

Website: www.centeroninstruction.org

The Education Trust

“The Education Trust works for the high academic achievement of all students at all levels, pre-kindergarten through college, and forever closing the achievement gaps that separate low-income students and students of color from other youth.”

Website: www2.edtrust.org

The Education Alliance

The Education Alliance, a department at Brown University, focuses primarily on district and school improvement issues, and, in particular, the issues of equity and diversity.

Website: www.alliance.brown.edu/ae_secondary.php