

NCLB Restructuring: Building Sustained Capacity for Instructional Change

If a school fails to meet its state's adequate yearly progress (AYP) performance benchmarks for five consecutive years, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act requires the school's district to create—and, in the following year, implement—a plan to restructure the school. One of the options allowed is to hire one or more designated persons to assist the school in making the changes necessary to improve student performance. The district can contract with an individual such as a distinguished educator or a nonprofit organization such as Learning Point Associates to assist in the restructuring process from the planning stages through implementation.

Learning Point Associates Assists Schools in Need of Improvement

Learning Point Associates is a nonprofit educational organization that provides assistance and support to schools in need of improvement to meet the requirements of NCLB. For the past 20 years, Learning Point Associates has worked extensively with districts and schools across the nation in building capacity and empowering educators as they transform student learning. Recently, we have worked with eight large urban districts in New York; schools and districts throughout Florida's Miami-Dade region; and urban centers in large cities such as Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and Gary, Indiana.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), we conducted a systemwide restructuring effort to advance student achievement in the 34 public schools within the two USVI districts. In 2003, all 34 schools were deemed high risk and ranked in the bottom third of schools in the United States and its territories. After two years in partnership with Learning Point Associates, 19 of the (now) 33 USVI schools showed improvement, according to *The Virgin Islands Daily News* in June 2005. This improvement resulted in 19 schools meeting the AYP requirement set by the district and NCLB. Documented increases include significant gains in student scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

In the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Learning Point Associates has worked successfully and diligently with schools in need of improvement. We provided guidance in creating a restructure plan as well as assisting and supporting the district-level and school leadership teams during the development of the school improvement process. Currently, we are working with a number of CPS schools to implement their restructure plan through a partnership that includes professional development and coaching.

For additional information, contact Learning Point Associates at info@learningpt.org.



The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement
www.centerforcsri.org

National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality
www.ncctq.org

NCLB Implementation Center
www.nclbcenter.org



Great Lakes East Comprehensive Assistance Center
www.learningpt.org/greatlakeseast/

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Midwestern Regional Educational Laboratory

www.learningpt.org

Naperville

1120 East Diehl Road, Suite 200
 Naperville, Illinois 60563-1486
 800-252-0283 > 630-649-6500

Chicago

120 South LaSalle
 Chicago, Illinois 60603-3403
 312-288-7500

Washington, D.C.

1100 17th Street NW, Suite 500
 Washington, DC 20036
 877-322-8700 > 202-223-6690