

School Improvement Technical Assistance

In partnership with the Idaho State Department of Education, this project provides technical assistance to districts & schools classified in one of the stages of Needs Improvement, as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act. Technical assistance to these districts & schools includes the provision and coordination of professional development; fostering collaboration; and the enhancement of regional, district, and school capacities to better serve students.

School Improvement Webinars

CSI&PS hosts webinar workshops based on the *Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools*. These webinars are available to all interested educators and stakeholders. Archived recordings of the webinar presentations can be accessed on the IdahoLive tab of the Idaho Digital Learning Academy website at <http://idahodigitallearning.org>. Presentation materials can be found at <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Improvement/MonthlySIWebinars.html>

The Idaho Building Capacity Project

The Idaho Building Capacity (IBC) Project is a cornerstone of Idaho's Statewide System of Support (SSOS) for Idaho schools & districts that have been identified as needing improvement, per NCLB.

The project is currently serving 91 sites statewide in partnership with IBC regional service centers housed at the University of Idaho (North), Boise State University (Southwest), and Idaho State University (Southeast). This project, which provides scaffolded support over a three-year period, is designed to assist educational leaders in building their own internal capacity to sustain school improvement efforts.

A key component of this support is the utilization of highly distinguished education leaders, titled Capacity Builders (CBs). CBs are provided with a tool kit of school improvement resources, and collaborate monthly. Each CB works in partnership with school and district leaders to assist in the creation and implementation of a customized school improvement plan.

More information, including application materials, can be found at <http://csi.boisestate.edu/improvement/IBC.html>.

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Information • Tools • Training

Positive results for students will come from changes in the knowledge, skill, and behavior of their teachers and parents. State policies and programs must provide the opportunity, support, incentive, and expectation for adults close to the lives of children to make wise decisions.

The Center on Innovation & Improvement helps regional comprehensive centers in their work with states to provide districts, schools, and families with the opportunity, information, and skills to make wise decisions on behalf of students.

The Center on Innovation & Improvement is administered by the Academic Development Institute (Lincoln, IL) in partnership with the Temple University Institute for Schools and Society (Philadelphia, PA) and Little Planet Learning (Nashville, TN).

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The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position of the supporting agencies and no official endorsement should be inferred.

WISE Tool

Ways to Improve School Effectiveness



**Idaho
School Improvement**

WISE Tool: Ways to Improve School Effectiveness

The WISE Tool

Change is made and sustained through focus, sequence, and shared accountability. The WISE Tool provides the focus and sequence while accommodating flexibility in approach.

Think Global Positioning System, Adapted.

The WISE Tool is a web-based tool for planning and navigating improvement's sometimes broad and unsteady course. It unites people within and across systems, aligns them in effort, deploys them in partnership, and guides them to success.

The WISE Tool functions similar to a global positioning system (GPS) in that it uses Success Indicators to:



Determine current position relative to the destination



Provide detailed routes for achieving it



Adjust to variations and even accommodate diversions along the way...



Without losing sight of the destination: systemic and lasting improvement in teaching and learning.

But results don't improve unless performance improves. In order for performance to improve, people must know what good performance looks like and have a clear path for achieving it. The WISE Tool provides the "what" but leaves the "how" to those who know best.

A Complicated Pursuit. . .

There are few systems that are more complex than the public education system. Most state education systems have at least four levels to their structure - state, district, school, classroom - with dozens of layers in and around and connected to each level - such as federal government, state government, local government, boards of education, PTAs, business roundtables, supplemental education service providers, advocacy groups, and student councils. To name a few.

Efforts to work hard and do the right thing at every level and within layers sometimes compete.



Lines get messy. Gridlock ensues.

Kids lose.

Too much effort, not too little, is often to blame - the result of well-intentioned people, absent common focus, shared vision, and clear understanding of their role.

But if that effort could be streamlined and channeled in the same direction, couldn't schools really get somewhere?

We think so.

Simplified

In 2007, the Center on Innovation & Improvement (CII) released its Handbook on Restructuring and Substantial School Improvement. The Handbook was designed to provide states, districts, and schools with a synthesis of the research surrounding what works in school improvement. At the spring 2008 annual convention of the American Educational Research Association in New York City, AERA's Division H named the Handbook the "Outstanding Publication of the Year".

CII turned the Handbook's research into Success Indicators - guideposts of successful improvement at both the district and school level.

These Success Indicators are the backbone of the Indistar System, called the WISE Tool in Idaho.

Indicators of Success for Idaho School Improvement

Rapid Improvement

Idaho is using the Rapid Improvement track of the WISE Tool. A set of Rapid Improvement Indicators is used to anchor the work of the school or district team in working towards rapid improvement of student learning and achievement.

School and district teams will assess their current position relative to each Success Indicator. Using the WISE Tool, schools will plan, execute, and monitor improvement measures prompted by the Success Indicators.

Steps in the WISE Tool

1. Register District/School
2. Provide District/School Information
3. Form District/School Team
4. Assess District/School Indicators
 - District Rapid Improvement Indicators: 34
 - School Rapid Improvement Indicators: 86
5. Create District/School Improvement Plan
6. Monitor District/School Improvement Plan

Leadership teams are asked to assess all indicators, and then focus on a smaller selection of indicators identified as propriety for planning and self-monitoring. Access the School Improvement Planning Workbook at <http://csi.boisestate.edu/improvement/SIPlans.html>.

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