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***Elevating the Learning Focus:
What High Impact Leaders Do***

1. *It's about the mission not the mission statement.* It all starts with beliefs and values – we cannot expect results if there is not a whole school commitment to every student's success. Everyone's attention must be persistently and relentlessly focused on learning and teaching.
2. *High expectations for each and every student.* In high-impact schools, teachers engage students in a learning process that maximizes excellence and equity. Because teachers make no assumptions about why students cannot learn, no self-fulfilling prophecies prevail. The focus is on a learning agenda that ensures a rigorous standard of student performance and provides the needed supports for students to succeed.
3. *Building communities of learners.* Strong learning-focused communities offer professional support and provide learning opportunities and mutual accountability for improving instruction. Schools must support a work culture that promotes collaboration, knowledge sharing, and collective responsibility for improving teaching and learning.
4. *Teachers are the silver bullet.* Competent, caring, and qualified teachers must be in every classroom. Individual teachers have a profound influence on student learning and the strategies they use to guide classroom practice should maximize the possibility of enhancing student achievement.
5. *Creating a coherent system for continuous improvement.* Organizational processes and practices are critical to the development of a coherent system of support for the improvement of teaching and learning. School effectiveness and the level of impact on student learning is dependent upon the alignment of resources, structures, time, and decisions with each other and with a focused improvement agenda.

High-impact leadership means creating powerful, equitable learning opportunities for both students and teachers and motivating individuals to take advantage of those opportunities. Making an impact means taking action. How do we implement the needed reforms in a deliberate high-quality way? How can we take powerful ideas and implement them to meet the urgent educational needs of children as quickly as possible? High-impact leaders can accomplish these outcomes by focusing on five areas for action that together make it more likely that every student will have access to a high-quality and equitable learning opportunity.



High-Impact Leadership

First Things First: Elevating the Learning Focus

REFLECTION – TAKING STOCK

What are the Key Actions you are taking to Elevate the Learning Focus in your school?

What are you most excited about that is moving your school to excellence?

VISION - CENTER STAGE

What is your vision of HIGH-IMPACT LEADERSHIP that supports a Learning Focus? What does it look like? Feel like? Sound like?





INQUIRY / CRITICAL PRACTICES – A Day in the Life of Student Learning at OUR School

Student Conversations

Writing for Learning

Formative Assessments/Feedback

High-Expectations/Challenge





ACTION – MAKE IT HAPPEN – GO!

What needs to change?

What can you do to lead teachers toward using these key practices?

How can you know if your school is learning?

How will you evaluate success?

VISION • INQUIRY • ACTION

Next steps you need to take to unlock your students' potential? To elevate the Learning Focus? To lead your school to become a High-Impact school that increases your students' learning?

