

Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools

School turnaround is a process for helping chronically struggling schools raise student achievement dramatically and quickly, within one to three years. A practice guide from the Institute of Education Sciences recommends four school turnaround practices.

Improved Leadership



- Hire new leader from inside or outside the system, or change leadership practices.
- Communicate clear direction and expectations.
- Demonstrate instructional leadership and accessibility.
- Establish connections with the community.

Quick Wins



- Identify areas that matter for rapid change.
- Develop strategies for accomplishing goals quickly.
- Consider goals set by other schools that led to quick wins.

Committed Staff



- Recruit new staff.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of staff.
- Redeploy or reassign staff as needed.
- Replace teachers who actively resist the change.

Focus on Instruction



- Examine school-, classroom-, and student-level data.
- Provide targeted and intensive professional development.
- Modify instruction and provide interventions.
- Track progress and make adjustments.

