



WISE Planning Tool: Ways to Improve School Effectiveness

The WISE Planning 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 planning tool for navigating effective and efficient school improvement's sometimes broad and unsteady course. It unites people within and across systems, aligns them in the effort, deploys them in partnership, and guides them to success.

The WISE planning tool functions similarly to a global positioning system (GPS) in that it uses Performance 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.

However, results do not 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 district and site leadership teams.

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, and classroom with dozens of layers in, around, and connected to each level, such as federal government, state government, local government, boards of education, PTAs, business roundtables, advocacy groups, and student councils.

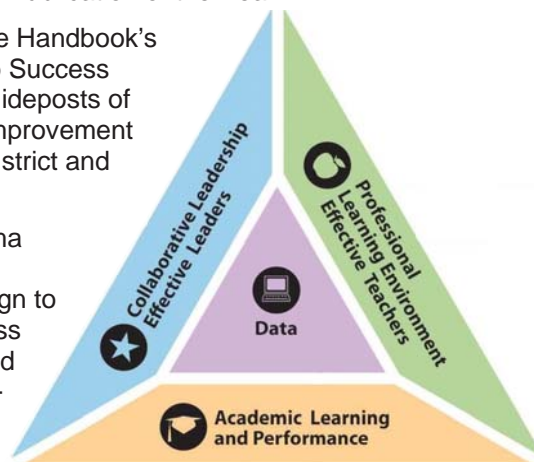
Efforts to work hard and do the right thing at every level and within layers sometimes compete. The WISE Planning Tool provides ways to focus on the one constant: improved student achievement.

. . . 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.

The Oklahoma Performance Indicators align to these Success Indicators and are the backbone of the WISE Tool.



Performance Indicators of Success for Oklahoma School Improvement

Oklahoma uses the Performance Indicator Improvement track of the WISE Tool. Rapid Improvement Indicators are used to anchor the work of the school or district team in progressing towards rapid improvement of student learning and achievement.

School and district teams assess their current position relative to each Oklahoma Nine Essential Elements Performance Indicator. Using the WISE Tool, schools plan, implement, and monitor improvement measures prompted by the Performance Indicators.

Indicator

Something such as a light, sign, or pointer that gives information about which direction to follow.

Steps in the WISE Tool

1. Register District/School
2. Provide District/School Information
3. Form District/School Team
4. Assess District/School Indicators
5. Create WISE Plan

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