

NASSP's National Study of Highly Successful Middle Level Schools and Their Leaders: A Preliminary Report

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NASSP's Study of Highly Successful ML Schools and Their Principals

TOPIC	PRESENTER	TIME
Welcome/Introductions	Vicki Petzko	5
Overview of Study School Contexts	Jerry Valentine	15
Leadership	Vicki Petzko	20
Programs and Practices	Jerry Valentine	20
Q & A	Vicki Petzko/Jerry Valentine	15

NASSP's ML Decade Studies

- **1980-1982 The Middle Level Principalship**
- **1991-1993 Leadership in ML Education**
- **2000-2003 Leadership in ML Schools**

Phase I: National Survey of ML Leaders and School Programs

- **Survey of Current Practices**
- **Spring/Summer 2000**
- **190 Web-based questions**
- **14,107 Principals Invited to Participate**
- **1,423 Returns (10%)**

Phase I Book:

**A National Study of Middle Level Leaders
and School Programs (March, 2002)**

Phase II: National Study of Highly Successful Schools and Their Leaders

Goal: Learn from effective schools and leaders.

Process:

- Nominators Identified Schools by State**
- Nominated Schools' Principals Provide Details**
- Panel Selected 100 Highly Successful Schools**
- Collected Detailed Data from each Schools**
- Six Schools Selected for Site Visits**
- Disseminate Findings**

Phase II: National Study of Highly Successful Schools and Their Leaders

Schools in Each State Identified by Nominators

- Winter 2000-2001**
- 150+ Nominators (NASSP, NMSA, Universities, State Departments)**
- Nomination Form Required Nominator to Provide Specific Info about School**
- 275 Schools Nominated (all states represented)**

Phase II: National Study of Highly Successful Schools and Their Leaders

Nominated Schools' Principals Provided School Data

- Winter - Spring 2001**
- Described Change Processes**
- Identified Implementation of Turning Points' 2000 Recommendations**
- Provided Demographics about Self and School**

100 Highly Successful Schools Selected

•Summer 2001: Panel Independently Evaluated Principals' Responses and Selected 100 Schools

•Criteria

- Processes for Change in Past 5 Years**
- Direction for Change (Values/Beliefs/Mission/Vision/Goals)**
- Address Challenges Facing the School**
- Document Meeting Student Needs (especially achievement)**
- Turning Points 2000 Recommendations**
 - Rigorous Curriculum**
 - Effective Instruction**
 - Expert Staff**
 - Learning Climate/Community**
 - Democratic Governance**
 - Safe/Healthy Environment**
 - Parent/Community Involvement**

100 Schools Invited: 98 Participated

Principals Completed Detailed Survey (Fall, 2001)

- Principal Personal Characteristics and Preparation**
- Leadership by Others**
- Curricular Programs**
- Organizational Designs for Instruction**
- Assessment Practices**
- Articulation and Transition Practices**
- Co-curricular Programs**
- School Improvement Practices**
- Professional Development Practices**

98 Schools: Survey Data Collected (Fall 2001)

- **Teacher Survey**
 - **School Culture and Climate**
 - **Principal Leadership**
 - **Teacher Instructional Practices**
- **Student Survey (10% of oldest class)**
 - **Participation in school**
 - **Self-esteem; self efficacy**
 - **Student behavior**
 - **Parent Involvement**
 - **Homework**
- **Parent Survey (knowledgeable parent leader)**
 - **School Improvement and Change Processes**
 - **Turning Points Recommendations**

Site-Visit Schools

- Research Team Studied All Data from the 98 Schools
- Invited Six Schools to Participate in On-Site Study
- Site-visits of Three Days (Spring, 2001)

Six Site-Visit Schools

<u>School</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Location</u>
Freeport Intermediate	Clara Sale-Davis	Freeport, TX
Lawton Chiles Middle Academy	Sharon Neuman	Lakeland, FL
South Shelby Middle School	Tim Hadfield	Shelbina, MO
Independence Middle School	Ed Vittardi	Independence, OH
Julius West Middle School	James Fernandez	Rockville, MD
Becker Middle School	Cathy Andrews	Las Vegas, NV

Grade Patterns of Study Schools

	Highly Successful	National Sample	National Population
5-6-7-8	8	10	10
6-7-8	54	59	59
7-8	22	17	17
7-8-9	8	6	5
Other	8	8	9

Student Enrollment

	Highly Successful	National Sample
<400	15	27
400-599	15	24
600-799	21	22
800-999	25	14
1,000-1,399	24	11
> 1,400	0	2

Average Daily Attendance

	Highly Successful	National Sample
< 80%	<1	<1
80-89%	2	5
90-95%	46	52
96% +	51	42

Per Pupil Expenditure

	Highly Successful (2001)	National Sample (2000)
< \$4,000	11	24
\$4,000-\$4,999	29	29
\$5,000-\$5,999	25	22
\$6,000-\$6,999	13	13
\$7,000-\$7,999	11	6
\$8,000 +	11	6

Classroom Teacher to Pupil Ratio

	Highly Successful	National Sample
>1 : 11	0	1
1 : 11-15	3	7
1 : 16-20	17	20
1 : 21-25	40	40
1 : 26-30	35	28
1 : 31-35	4	4
1 : 36 +	<1	<1

Certification for Majority of Teachers

	Highly Successful	National Sample
Elementary	29	30
Middle	25	18
Secondary	46	52

Average % Ethnicity of Students

	Highly Successful	National Sample
Caucasian	77	79
African-American	8	10
Chicano/Hispanic	8	8
American-Indian	1	1
Asian-American	5	2
Other	1	<1

Students Free/Reduced Lunch

	Highly Successful	National Sample
Average Percentage of Students on Free/Reduced Lunch	<i>25%</i>	<i>32%</i>
50% or More of Students on F/R Lunch	<i>11%</i>	<i>17%</i>