District Leadership Matters

McREL’s research and analysis show that superintendents, school boards, and district-level administrators have the power to increase student achievement if they fulfill the key responsibilities of effective district-level leadership.

We can help you and your district leadership team understand why and how to strike the right balance among these key responsibilities:

• Ensuring collaborative goal setting
• Establishing non-negotiable goals for instruction and student achievement
• Creating board alignment with, and support of, district goals
• Allocating resources effectively to support goals
• Providing school leaders with “defined autonomy”
• Monitoring progress and evaluating results
• Managing your staff’s transitions through change processes

Find Your Best Leverage Points

We’ll help you identify your existing bright spots, the root causes of your challenges, and your best leverage points for improvement. Together we’ll craft a plan and action steps aligned to your goals that will generate quick wins and long-term, game-changing success for your students and staff.

Grounded in McREL’s Analysis of Effective School Systems

In addition to fulfilling key leadership responsibilities, district-level leaders must also have a systems view—from the boardroom to the classroom. Our in-depth analysis of effective school systems, as explored in Simply Better, reveals five areas of focus linked to positive effects on student achievement. Learn how to apply our findings to your own unique context and challenges.

What Matters Most™

Changing the Odds for Student Success
CMCSS began its partnership with McREL in 2008...ultimately benefitting our staff and students as our organization is more thoughtful and strategic in how it implements change and determines focus.”

— Superintendent Dr. B.J. Worthington
Clarksville-Montgomery County School System, TN

Become a High-Reliability School System

High-reliability organizations (HROs) are those in which failure is not an option—such as nuclear power plants and air traffic control operations. The most effective school systems treat student failure similarly, putting structures and processes in place that ensure student success. McREL helps district leaders use HRO principles to:

• Reliably provide all students with high-quality learning experiences
• Quickly respond to early warnings of potential failure
• Use short-cycle trials to accelerate innovation and positive change

Manage Your Initiatives and Change Processes More Effectively

Our experienced staff will contextualize and customize services to match your district’s specific strengths, challenges, plans, and goals. Areas of training, consulting and coaching include:

- A Systems Perspective for Effective District Leadership
- Connecting District and School Leadership to Student Achievement
- Aligning Initiatives for Maximum Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Choosing the Right Focus for District-Level Leadership
- Managing Change at the District Level
- Scenario Planning: Anticipating and Leading the Future

Contact us to find out how McREL can help your district.