

ORGANIZATION NAME

WestEd

ADDRESS

730 Harrison Street
San Francisco, CA
94107

MISSION

WestEd is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research, development, and service agency that partners with education and other communities throughout the United States and abroad to promote excellence, achieve equity, and improve learning for children, youth, and adults.

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Comprehensive, Evidence-Based Approach to Rapid School Improvement

WestEd’s school improvement services build turnaround leadership and are organized around the Four Domains of Rapid School Improvement, a research-based framework by the national Center for School Turnaround. Our approach is customized based on the strengths and needs of each school.

- » **Comprehensive needs assessment** using a valid reliable survey aligned to Four Domains plus student data, focus groups and more
- » **Customized improvement plan** including leadership support and Evidence-based interventions meeting ESSA evidence levels
- » **Capacity-building services** including cohort based learning, individual and team coaching, and virtual coaching

Differentiating Services to the Unique Needs of Indiana Schools

WestEd will work with districts and schools to develop a system of support that meets each school’s needs and context. The system of support designed for each school will recognize the unique needs identified for each subgroup’s achievement gaps.



Furthermore, for true systemic and sustained change to occur, the approach to improvement may focus on aligning school vision, mission, and goals. →

Strengthening School Climate and Culture, Engaging Student Voice

WestEd offers a variety of services designed to help schools and district build capacity to build student-centered school climate and improve social/emotional outcomes. Services include training for teachers on Trauma Informed Practices to help them understand the effects of trauma on students, as well as interventions, such as Student Listening Circles and Youth Leadership Summits, that build and strengthen school climate and cultural awareness, increasing students' sense of belonging, and creating caring, connected relationships with adults that are the necessary precursors to learning.

Attributes of an Ideal Partner District and/or School

WestEd maintains three essential operating principles in school improvement work. The presence of these attributes greatly increases the opportunity for positive successful outcomes.

- » **Local Stakeholder Support is Essential.** Partners for transformational change must enlist the support of all stakeholders. Limited efforts or efforts designed to impact only a fraction of the staff or students are unlikely to yield significant, sustained improvement.
- » **Effective Implementation is Key.** For evidence-based interventions to deliver results they must be implemented with fidelity.
- » **Mutual Accountability Matters.** An ideal partner holds WestEd accountable and is willing to be held accountable. Mutual accountability is based on trust and evident among all stakeholder groups within a system.

Impact and Track Record of Success: Student and School Outcomes

WestEd has worked with dozens of schools and districts to successfully and rapidly improve student achievement, for *all* student and at *all* grade levels. Below are just two examples of our positive impact.

Green Bay Area Public Schools

GREEN BAY, WI

WestEd served as Lead Turnaround Partner for Fort Howard Elementary School from 2013-2016. Work included: initial needs assessment to identify the strengths and challenges; targeted professional learning around culture and climate; building a growth mindset; building parent capacity to support their children academically; academic language and literacy; and using data to drive student achievement. The result: Fort Howard Elementary School moved from "Fails to Meet Expectations," the lowest state rating, to "Exceeds Expectations," improving the school score by 24.8 points. In addition, Fort Howard exceeds the state averages in the category of Student Growth, and Closing Gaps (2017 data).

Buffalo Public Schools

BUFFALO, NY

WestEd has been working with struggling schools in Buffalo, NY since 2013 (31,000 students; 82% low income, 22% special education, 15% English learners; 47% African American, 19% Latino, 20% white, 9% Asian, 4% multiracial, 1% native American). In 2015-16, four out of eight of the Buffalo schools that WestEd worked with were in receivership (persistently struggling, low performing schools). During the 2016-17 school year, 100% of WestEd partner schools met their receivership targets; of the non-WestEd schools, only 55% met their receivership targets. PS 198 was one of WestEd's Buffalo partner schools. Services at PS 198 included direct instruction to teachers through professional learning workshops as well as support for PLCs. Workshops addressed a variety of topics from cross content literacy to support for English learners. Training was also provided to PLC facilitators and school administrators. Since WestEd began providing support, graduation rates increased from 33% in 2013 to over 60% in 2016. Performance on state Regents exams increased in five out of eight subject areas with increases ranging from 15% to 40%.