



FACT SHEET

# 4 Strategies for Districts to Successfully Implement Evidence-based Practices

By Chelsea Straus and Tiffany D. Miller     March 2, 2016

The recent passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act presents districts with an opportunity to implement evidence-based school improvement strategies. The Center for American Progress' report, "Strategies to Improve Low-performing Schools under the Every Student Succeeds Act," is an informative resource to help districts implement evidence-based practices and set the structure to improve low-performing schools.

The report examines how three school districts implemented five evidence-based practices:

- Data-driven instruction
- Excellence in teaching and leadership
- Culture of high expectations
- Frequent and intensive tutoring, or so-called high dosage tutoring
- Extended school day and year

Here are four steps to help districts achieve success when implementing evidence-based practices in traditional public schools.

- 1. Allot a sufficient amount of planning time.** In order to facilitate a smoother implementation, districts should set aside at least one year for planning and prepare for mid-course corrections.
- 2. Implement school-level budgeting.** School-level budgeting allows school leaders to fill teaching positions that best fit student needs and tailor implemented practices to a particular school.
- 3. Aggressively recruit, hire, and train school leaders and teachers.** Effectively selecting and preparing innovative school leaders will secure excellent principal leadership. These school leaders will then have the skills to develop and retain a strong teacher pipeline.
- 4. Obtain stakeholder investment.** Districts should engage school boards, unions, teachers, parents, and the community in the planning and implementation processes. Data and word-of-mouth are powerful tools to convince stakeholders that evidence-based practices are an effective school improvement strategy.

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