

**Leading Successful School Turnarounds: Learning from Research and Practice**  
**Breakout Sessions**

**DAY ONE**

**Signaling the Need for Change and Building Buy-in for Reform**

Strong leadership at the school level is essential to launching a successful turnaround effort. Participants will deepen their understanding of how recommended practices from the *Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools* Practice Guide can be applied to initiating change in their own settings. Video clips and case examples will prompt participant analysis and discussion, and practical tools for planning and implementing school turnaround will be introduced.

**Speakers/Presenters**

- **Bryan Hassel**, Co-Director of Public Impact
- **Nikola Filby**, Senior Program Director at WestEd and Associate Director of REL West

**Local School Districts: Key Partners for Sustaining Innovation and Improvement in Low-Performing Schools**

Participants will engage in a focused discussion of how districts can support successful implementation of recommended school turnaround practices. An example of a successful school/district partnership for school turnaround, presented by those involved, will serve as a context for demonstrating tools that districts can use to support school turnaround efforts.

**Speakers/Presenters**

- **Joseph Johnson**, Executive Director of the National Center for Urban School Transformation and the QUALCOMM Professor of Urban Education at San Diego State University
- **Andrea Rorrer**, Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and Director of the Utah Education Policy Center, at the University of Utah
- **Cynthia Lopez**, Area Superintendent, Socorro (TX) Independent School District (SISD)
- **Magdalena Aguilar**, Principal, Escontrias Elementary School; Socorro ISD

**Assessing and Creating a School Climate Conducive to Learning**

Based on the *School Climate Research Summary: January 2010*, published by the Center for Social and Emotional Education (CSEE), participants will learn about school climate as a factor in school improvement efforts. They will be introduced to two surveys used to collect data on school climate and see a demonstration of data-use tools developed by CSEE and the California Department of Education. There will be opportunities to explore connections between research and practice.

**Speakers/Presenters**

- **Jonathan Cohen**, co-founder and president of the Center of Social and Emotional Education (CSEE); Adjunct Professor in Psychology and Education at Teachers College, Columbia University;
- **Vanessa A. Camilleri**, Social/Emotional Learning Specialist on the leadership team at The Arts & Technology Academy Public Charter School in Washington, DC
- **Gregory Austin**, Program Director of WestEd's Health and Human Development Program (HHDP)
- **Thomas Hanson**, Senior Research Associate of WestEd's Health and Human Development Program and Co-Director of Research for REL West

**Designing and Implementing Comprehensive Teacher Evaluation and Support Systems**

Participants will learn about the research base for new systems and measures of teacher effectiveness and examples of what those systems entail in practice. Specifically, a comprehensive system currently being pilot tested in the Denver Public Schools, and systems implemented across the country by the Teacher Advancement Project, will be discussed.

**Speakers/Presenters**

- **Melissa Eiler White**, Senior Researcher, REL West
- **Kalpana Rao**, Senior Manager, Teacher Performance Assessment, Denver Public Schools
- **Tamara W. Schiff**, Senior Vice President, National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

**DAY TWO**

**Using Assessment Data to Inform Instruction**

After an overview of the five recommendations from the IES practice guide, *Using Student Achievement Data to Support Instructional Decision Making*, participants will learn how a variety of assessment data may be used to support continuous improvement. The session will include a discussion of the role of schoolwide vision and climate to support data-based decision making, facilitated dialogue with a practitioner, demonstration of data use tools, and an opportunity to apply those tools.

**Speakers/Presenters**

- **Noelle Caskey**, Senior Research Associate in WestEd's Innovation Studies Program
- **Margaret Heritage**, Assistant Director for Professional Development at the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (CRESST) at UCLA
- **Stanley Rabinowitz**, Director of WestEd's Assessment and Standards Development Services
- **Norma Silva**, former principal, Para Los Ninos Charter School in Los Angeles, CA; current principal, UCLA Laboratory School
- **Marie Mancuso**, Associate Director of the Southwest Comprehensive Center at WestEd

### [Focusing on Instruction](#)

Based on recommended practices in the IES Practice Guide, *Organizing Instruction and Study to Improve Student Learning*, this session will expand on the recommended turnaround practice of focusing on instruction by exploring how schools can continuously improve instruction. Participants will learn about the research base, how practitioners have applied the research in real-world settings, and related tools available to participants.

#### Speakers/Presenters

- **Harold Pashler**, panel chair for the featured IES Practice Guide and professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of California, San Diego
- **Mary Peterson**, Senior Program Associate at WestEd
- **Nikola Filby**, Senior Program Director at WestEd and Associate Director of REL West
- **William Frey**, Science Chair and Coach, and **Carolyn Viss**, Math Department Chair, Waterford (CA) High School

### [District Practices to Promote Family Engagement](#)

This session focuses on current research on family engagement and how it relates to student achievement and school turnaround efforts. A presentation by the Harvard Family Research Project will describe specific ways that family engagement can be a systemic and integrated practice to improve student performance. Participants will learn about Parent Information and Resource Centers as examples of family engagement and have an opportunity to examine strategies and web-based tools to facilitate family involvement.

#### Speakers/Presenters

- **M. Elena Lopez**, Senior Consultant, Harvard Family Research Project
- **Maria Paredes**, Director of Community Education, Creighton Elementary School District, Phoenix, AZ
- **Deanne McLaughlin**, Principal, and **Fran Hjalmarson**, Counselor, Los Penasquitos Elementary School, Poway, CA
- **D'Lisa Crain**, Department of Family-School Partnerships, Office of Community Engagement and Communications, Washoe County School District, NV
- **BethAnn Berliner**, Senior Research Associate, WestEd

### [Monitoring Progress Toward School Improvement Goals](#)

States and districts are required to monitor implementation of SIG turnaround models and the progress that schools are making. This session will provide an opportunity for state and district leaders to reflect on ways that progress monitoring can be used to support and sustain school turnaround efforts. Participants will learn how complementary research on implementation of change can support the district role in turnaround strategies. A progress monitoring tool (Planning and Monitoring Tracker) will be demonstrated.

#### Speakers/Presenters

- **Fred Tempes**, Director, WestEd's Comprehensive School Assistance Program
- **Jon Frank**, Senior Program Associate, WestEd's Comprehensive School Assistance Program
- **Sylvie Hale**, Director, Program Development and Strategic Planning at WestEd's Comprehensive School Assistance Program
- **Sheila Hyde**, Deputy Secretary, Learning and Accountability, New Mexico Public Education Department.
- **Patricia Crotti**, Senior Program Associate at WestEd's Comprehensive School Assistance Program

### [Union-District Collaboration to Support School Turnaround](#)

This session will present practical steps for enabling unions and school districts to build collaborative partnerships for turning around low-performing schools. Examples of successful partnerships from across the U.S. will be discussed, with a focus on the San Juan Unified School District in California.

#### Speakers/Presenters

- **Adam Urbanski**, Director, TURN Exchange, and President, Rochester Teachers Association
- **Tom Alves**, Co-Director, TURN Exchange, and Executive Director, San Juan Teachers Association
- **Pat Jaurequi**, Superintendent, San Juan Unified School District