

Overview

The School Improvement Best Practices (SI BPs) are the specific tools that will aid struggling schools within school systems across the state of Louisiana. The Division of School Improvement within the Office of Teaching Learning exists to provide differentiated and targeted support to school systems and leaders in the implementation of LDOE School Improvement Best Practices. This work is based on a shared set of initiatives, also referred to as Best Practices, and is grounded in the Department's [Believe to Achieve](#) priority of cultivating high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships.

Theory of Action

The School Improvement Support Specialists (SISS) will provide high-quality, differentiated Best Practices and curriculum-focused support to school system leaders, which includes:

- conducting paired observations with school systems
- collecting data during paired observations to inform feedback around the Best Practices
- using data collected from paired observations to provide feedback to school system leaders
- supporting school system leaders to provide high-quality instructional feedback to school leaders/teachers to improve their quality of practice.

As a result, all students in priority schools will have access to a high-quality education and will meet their ambitious growth goals each year.

Best Practices

There are five Best Practices that school systems may choose to implement.

- **Instructional Leadership Team**--Support systems/leaders with establishing ILTs that engage in actions that are aligned to current teacher and leader needs.
- **Teacher Collaboration Support**--Support systems/leaders with utilizing collaborative structures to ensure opportunities are provided for teachers to receive job-embedded professional development and assistance in identifying and addressing students needs.
- **Teacher Standards Support**--Support systems/leaders in using observation tools to observe classroom instruction to determine the quality of the learning and teaching experience.
- **Principal Standards Support**--Support systems/leaders to establish walkthrough/feedback cycles that focus on a specific system/school/teacher/student need.
- **Career Pipeline Support**- Support system/school leaders to identify and utilize site-based teacher leaders to assist in efforts to improve the learning and teaching process.

Support

The SISS will assist school systems in determining which Best Practice(s) to implement during the 2021-2022 school year using the following structure:

Consultation: School system and SISS meet to identify Best Practices area of support.

Collaboration: School system and SISS complete Best Practices agreement to identify schools that will receive specific support.

Coaching/Support: School system, SISS, and school leader(s) meet to determine focus of coaching short-term goal and develop a coaching cycle.