

#3 THEY HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR THEIR STUDENTS.

- ‘It’s our job to get you all to the station.’ Liz Mullins, Oakland Heights Elementary
- ‘It’s not about feeling sorry for kids. It’s about making sure that they understand what it is they’re expected to do.’ Principal Adderley, Stanton Elementary

THEY KNOW WHAT THE STAKES ARE.

- “They know that if their students don’t get a good education, they face the probability of a lifetime of poverty and dependence.”
- ‘We have got to expand <our students’> horizons or we are signing their death warrants.’ Principal Coach Martha Barber, Alabama
- ‘This is your one chance.’ Principal Esparza, Granger High School

THEY LIKE KIDS.

- Students are brought into conversations, student work is highlighted and proudly displayed, older students are role models, and teachers tell affectionate stories about students and boast about their work.
- “The struggles that students have outside school only increase the regard teachers and principals have for what they are able to achieve in school....Such respect never translates into expecting less from students, just into appreciating the effort that they must put in to achieve.”

“The gains Granger has made can be linked to organizational and instructional changes in the school. But **all the changes began with a change in expectations.** Esparza expects all students to succeed and believes they can, and he expects his faculty to believe the same thing. Many didn’t when he first arrived.”

GRANGER HIGH SCHOOL, Granger, Washington

“ ‘I don’t want missionaries,’ Elder said, ‘I tell my teachers, Don’t worry about whether they get love. That’ll come. Worry about teaching them.’”

BENWOOD INITIATIVE Chattanooga, TN

“ ‘It’s a hard process, but it’s achievable,’ said Brittingham, ‘But first you have to believe it’s achievable,’ and ‘Teachers have to believe that they <themselves> are capable of achieving it.’”

FRANKFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Frankford, Delaware

“All the battles over whether children can learn are now over at Frankford. Almost all conversations at Frankford is about how to make sure they do learn.”

FRANKFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Frankford, Delaware

“On most of the tests, in most of the grade levels, more than 90 percent of the students met or exceeded state standards even though the ‘cut scores’ had increased for some of the tests – that is, children needed to answer more questions correctly in order to be considered as meeting or exceeding standards.”

FRANKFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Frankford, Delaware

“ ‘Excused for poor performance are no longer permitted.’ Poor performance is now a signal that instruction needs to improve in some way.” Principal Adderley
M. HALL STANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

“Keeping the emphasis on teaching techniques and strategies means the discussion stays on instruction. ‘It’s not about feeling sorry for kids,’ Adderley said, ‘It is about making sure they know what they are expected to do.’”
M. HALL STANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

“...the difficulties of the children’s lives outside of school intrude regularly... As difficult as these things are for the school community, however, none of it is allowed to stop the main job of the school: teaching and learning.”
M. HALL STANTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Philadelphia, PA

“The constant refrain she has had to battle in high-minority, high-poverty schools is ‘Our kids are different, and we’re not going to get the same results’ as schools where the children are white and middle class....She has had to battle low expectations on the part of teachers and schools and knows how crippling that can be.... ‘We can’t give up on the children.’”
WEST JASPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, West Jasper, Alabama

“ ‘Unachievable’ is a word often tossed around in discussions of No Child Left Behind...But while the debate swirls in national policy circles, the principal of East Millsboro Elementary School simply states, ‘It’s achievable. We did it last year.’”
EAST MILLSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, East Millsboro, Delaware

“...because of the way time and instruction are organized and the way struggling students are identified and provided help, Brittingham said he does expect to ‘hit the high 90’s’ every year.”
EAST MILLSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, East Millsboro, Delaware

“Albano and all the members of his staff are passionate about their mission – to educate all their students and to demonstrate that well-run schools with enthusiastic, knowledgeable teachers are not only possible but necessary in order to give today’s children a chance to succeed and thrive. ‘We can’t give up on a generation of children.’ ”
Albano
LINCOLN ELEMENTARY, Mount Vernon, NY

“When the 2006 state report cards were issued, Capitol View posted 100 per-cent proficiency rates in reading, math, science, and social studies. This, in spite of higher standards that began to be phased in this year.”
CAPITOL VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Atlanta, Georgia

“ ‘A critical mass essentially developed.’ Coletti said. ‘Now teachers do their own policing.’ By that he meant in part that teachers no longer tolerate their colleagues saying negative things about the capacity of their students to learn.”

PORT CHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL, Port Chester, NY

“Dayton’s Bluff is proving that students who do terribly elsewhere can achieve academic success. Not only that: It also demonstrates that a school’s improvement can be both rapid and sustained.”

DAYTON’S BLUFF ACHIEVEMENT PLUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, St. Paul, MN