

CTO UPDATES – January 2019

Assistant Principals' Academy

The Turnaround Office will facilitate its third Assistant Principal Academy session in Macon on Wednesday, February 13th. The session will focus on Instructional Leadership with an emphasis on teacher observation and feedback protocols. Participants will be exposed to the *Get Better Faster* framework, a research-based approach to coaching teachers.

A Spotlight on Climate & Culture

A growing body of research highlights a strong correlation between school climate and academic achievement. During the first semester the CTO team used various leading indicators (student attendance, staff attendance, student discipline, survey feedback, etc.) and on-site observations to study each school's transformation related to climate and culture. Based on this data, the CTO team has identified a group of schools that will be offered additional support to enhance their school's climate and culture.

Curriculum Resources

At January's State Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the next steps to provide curriculum resources for our partner schools. The use of the resources is totally voluntary. The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) will be leading the initial work in collaboration with representatives from various districts. District leaders should look out for important information regarding a planning meeting on February 20-21 in Albany.

Health & Wellness Initiative

Mary Lauren Salvatore is the newest member of the CTO team. A graduate and former Project Director at Emory University, she is tasked with designing a comprehensive health and wellness model with partner schools. Focusing on non-academic needs is a central expectation of the First Priority Act and a pivotal component of the CTO's theory of action to improve academic outcomes. The initiative will focus on mental health programming, student nutrition, and staff wellness. The staff wellness component is a part of the CTO's broader talent management focus.



The first task of the Initiative is conducting student health screens (asthma, hearing, language and communication, mental/behavioral health, nutrition, oral health, vision) and facilitating a comprehensive strategy for follow-up intervention.

Proposed Amendments to the First Priority Act / Talent Management Focus

Several amendments to strengthen the First Priority Act have been proposed in the current legislative session. The most pivotal involves \$7,500 teacher recruitment and retention stipends for partner schools. Feedback from school and district leaders throughout the fall identified a greater focus on teacher recruitment and retention. A second proposal is to create a "Turnaround Collaborative". The Collaborative would involve bringing the various state agencies, non-profits, and other stakeholders together quarterly to collectively explore opportunities to align and address barriers together. Local representatives are included.