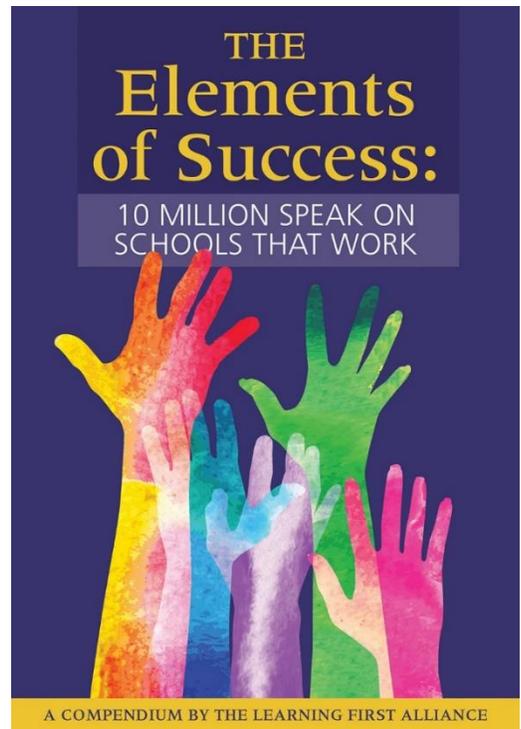


How Educator Preparation Programs Can Use *The Elements of Success*



We know how to provide world-class pre-K–12 education in the United States. In many places, it has been—and is being—done.

Where schools are working, it is because educators, parents and local communities have developed programs specific to their goals and challenges. Yet there are elements common to all successful schools. In *The Elements of Success: 10 Million Speak on Schools That Work*, the Learning First Alliance, which represents the wide variety of local stakeholders working directly with and on behalf of students every day—identifies them:

- **Focus on the Total Child**
- **Commitment to Equity and Access**
- **Family and Community Engagement**
- **Distributed Leadership**
- **Strong, Supported Teaching Force and Staff**
- **Relationship-Oriented School Climate**

Yet while all successful schools achieve each of these elements, the “solution” in improvement is not the same for every school. How these elements are implemented and integrated varies greatly. Each school community must develop an individual response to its context that incorporates them. That response cannot be dictated by the federal or state government.

5 Ways Educator Preparation Programs Can Support This Work

We suggest educator preparation programs use this compendium in a number of ways to support all schools’ efforts to achieve these elements:

- **Incorporate it into the curriculum** as a textbook or reference material in educator and school leader preparation programs. Ensure that rising teachers, school counselors, principals and other school leaders understand not only what the six elements are but also

the importance of local context in achieving them. Help them understand educators must be adaptable, able to modify good ideas and programs so that they work for their individual students.

- **Use the principles it espouses in conversations with school and district partners.** Help them understand the types of environments in which you hope to place teaching candidates for clinical experiences, as well as graduates for employment. Talk to them about the role of educator preparation programs in helping pre-K–12 partners both understand and address their strengths and weaknesses in relation to the elements, for the benefit of students.
- **Integrate it into professional learning opportunities for practicing educators,** helping them better understand the comprehensive nature of school improvement. Give them the language and skills they need to evaluate their own and their schools' assets and identify areas for improvement. Ensure they aren't tempted by the "cut and paste" model of education change—help them learn to adapt specific ideas or programs to their context.
- **Incorporate it in advocacy work.** The compendium makes clear the importance of preparation programs that meet quality standards and are grounded in clinical practice. It also makes clear that educators need additional support in both their initial training and ongoing development around specific topics, including meeting the needs of individual students and student populations, technology, using data effectively and more. It highlights the importance of partnerships. These issues align well with the current advocacy agendas of many educator preparation programs and their associations at the federal, state and local levels.
- **Use it to inform a research agenda.** In developing new studies aimed at improving pre-K–12 education, use the ideas presented in the compendium as a guide. Research based on questions of practice (including those related to the key elements identified here) is useful in helping educators, schools and districts make changes that directly impact the day-to-day work of teaching and learning.

The Elements of Success: 10 Million Speak on Schools That Work is a project from the Learning First Alliance, a partnership of leading education organizations representing more than 10 million members dedicated to improving student learning in America's public schools. Alliance members include: American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education; AASA, The School Superintendents Association; American Federation of Teachers; American School Counselor Association; Consortium for School Networking; Learning Forward; National Association of Elementary School Principals; National Association of Secondary School Principals; National Education Association; National PTA; National School Boards Association; and National School Public Relations Association.

To learn more about LFA, visit <http://www.learningfirst.org/>.

To access the compendium and supporting materials, visit <https://learningfirst.org/elementsofsuccess>.