

## School Improvement Technical Assistance

The Oklahoma State Department of Education provides technical assistance to schools utilizing the WISE planning tool. Technical assistance to these schools includes the provision and coordination of professional development; fostering collaboration; and the enhancement of regional, district, and school capacities to better serve students.

"The WISE tool provides a simplified and focused approach to school-wide planning."

-Jackie White and Sherri Fair,  
Union Public Schools

## WISE Planning Tool Features

Wise Ways™ technology links each indicator to a succinct synthesis of the related research, examples, and resources.

Oklahoma Nine Essential Elements rubrics provide a tool for site and district self-assessment.

Coaching comments feature allows an external coach to offer feedback to the team. The system maintains a thread of the dialogue between the coach and the team, and the comments can be saved or printed as a report.

Family Engagement Tool (FET) is a five-step process by which the school team conducts a needs assessment of parent involvement, checks Title I compliance, and develops objectives for improvement. The system provides a huge library of downloadable materials for parent involvement.

Electronic reporting provided with an administrative page, allows for convenient monitoring of each district and school's progress and access to electronically submitted reports. Reporting may include electronic submission of required documents to satisfy federal and state requirements.

Progress tracking report displays progress for identified performance indicators assessed and the specific action plans.

Built-in documentation mechanisms provide practical ways for creating agendas, recording minutes, assigning responsibility, setting timelines, allocating resources, coaching, and monitoring the degree of implementation.



Oklahoma State Department of Education  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
Phone: (405) 522-3395  
Fax: (405) 522-5310  
<http://ok.gov/sde/>



Center on Innovation & Improvement  
121 N. Kickapoo Street  
Lincoln, IL 62656  
Phone: (217) 732-6462  
Fax: (217) 732-3696  
[www.centerii.org](http://www.centerii.org)

### Information • Tools • Training

Positive results for students will come from changes in the knowledge, skill, and behavior of their teachers and parents. State policies and programs must provide the opportunity, support, incentive, and expectation for adults close to the lives of children to make wise decisions.

The Center on Innovation & Improvement helps regional comprehensive centers in their work with states to provide districts, schools, and families with the opportunity, information, and skills to make wise decisions on behalf of students.

The Center on Innovation & Improvement is administered by the Academic Development Institute (Lincoln, IL) in partnership with the Temple University Institute for Schools and Society (Philadelphia, PA) and Little Planet Learning (Nashville, TN).

*A national content center supported by the US Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.*

*Award #S283B050057*

*The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position of the supporting agencies and no official endorsement should be inferred.*



Oklahoma State  
Department of Education

# WISE Planning Tool

## Ways to Improve School Effectiveness



# WISE Planning Tool: Ways to Improve School Effectiveness

## The WISE Planning Tool

Change is made and sustained through focus, sequence, and shared accountability. The WISE Tool provides the focus and sequence while accommodating flexibility in approach.



## Think Global Positioning System, Adapted

The WISE Tool is a Web-based planning tool for navigating effective and efficient school improvement's sometimes broad and unsteady course. It unites people within and across systems, aligns them in the effort, deploys them in partnership, and guides them to success.

The WISE planning tool functions similarly to a global positioning system (GPS) in that it uses Performance Indicators to:

- Determine current position relative to the destination.
- Provide detailed routes for achieving it.
- Adjust to variations and even accommodate diversions along the way.
- Without losing sight of the destination: systemic and lasting improvement in teaching and learning.

However, results do not improve unless performance improves. In order for performance to improve, people must know what good performance looks like and have a clear path for achieving it. The WISE Tool provides the "what" but leaves the "how" to district and site leadership teams.

## A Complicated Pursuit . . .

There are few systems that are more complex than the public education system. Most state education systems have at least four levels to their structure: state, district, school, and classroom with dozens of layers in, around, and connected to each level, such as federal government, state government, local government, boards of education, PTAs, business roundtables, advocacy groups, and student councils.

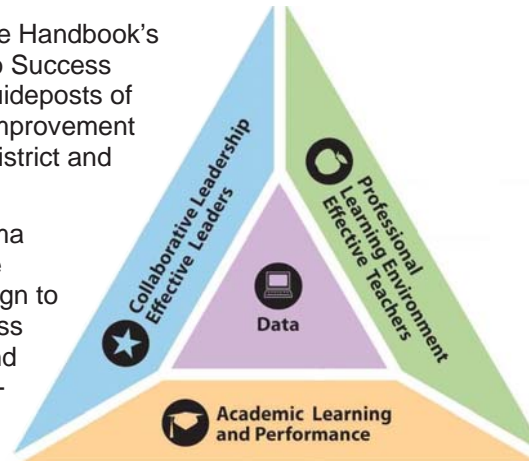
Efforts to work hard and do the right thing at every level and within layers sometimes compete. The WISE Planning Tool provides ways to focus on the one constant: improved student achievement.

## . . . Simplified

In 2007, the Center on Innovation & Improvement (CII) released its Handbook on Restructuring and Substantial School Improvement. The Handbook was designed to provide states, districts, and schools with a synthesis of the research surrounding what works in school improvement. At the spring 2008 annual convention of the American Educational Research Association in New York City, AERA's Division H named the Handbook the "Outstanding Publication of the Year."

CII turned the Handbook's research into Success Indicators-guideposts of successful improvement at both the district and school level.

The Oklahoma Performance Indicators align to these Success Indicators and are the backbone of the WISE Tool.



## Performance Indicators of Success for Oklahoma School Improvement

Oklahoma uses the Performance Indicator Improvement track of the WISE Tool. Rapid Improvement Indicators are used to anchor the work of the school or district team in progressing towards rapid improvement of student learning and achievement.

School and district teams assess their current position relative to each Oklahoma Nine Essential Elements Performance Indicator. Using the WISE Tool, schools plan, implement, and monitor improvement measures prompted by the Performance Indicators.

**Indicator**  
Something such as a light, sign, or pointer that gives information about which direction to follow.

## Steps in the WISE Tool

1. Register District/School
2. Provide District/School Information
3. Form District/School Team
4. Assess District/School Indicators
5. Create WISE Plan

## For more information contact:

School Support/ School Improvement  
405-522-3395

Office of Title I, IIA, VI, & X  
405-521-3466  
For Schoolwide Plans