

America's Most Successful High Schools

Case Studies and Resources on Best Practices

This compendium presents the findings from a study of 30 high schools that were included in the *Bringing Successful Practices to Scale* initiative. These schools provide great insight into how high schools can help *all* students complete a rigorous and relevant curriculum. There is no one formula for a successful high school; however, certain characteristics appear to be consistent across the high schools. They are:

- Focusing instruction around students' interests, learning styles, and aptitudes – typically through small learning communities
- An unrelenting commitment to excellence for all students, with emphasis on literacy across the curriculum
- A laser-like focus on data to make daily instructional decisions for individual students

- Solid and dedicated leadership
- An extraordinary commitment of resources to 9th grade students
- A rigorous and relevant 12th grade year
- High-quality curriculum and instruction that focuses on rigor, relevance, relationships, and reflective thought
- Strong relationships driven by character education

Resource Kit

#K-04-HSC
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Includes the following materials from the Model Schools Conference:

- ✓ 30 Case Studies of America's Most Successful High Schools
- ✓ "America's Most Successful High Schools — What Makes Them Work," by Dr. Willard Daggett
- ✓ Two DVD presentations:
 - "Preparing Students for a Changing World"
 - "Successful Schools — What Makes Them Work"

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Appendix A — Rigor/Relevance Framework

Appendix B — Quadrant D Examples from Successful High Schools



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