



Connecting Research to Practice: Transforming Struggling Schools

March 16, 2010

The Northland Inn
7025 Northland Drive
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55428

Agenda

8:30 – 9:15 a.m.

Registration and Review of Institute of Education Sciences Practice Guide *Turning Around Chronically Low- Performing Schools*

*During facilitated conversation, participants will review the IES Practice Guide, **Turning Around Chronically Low-Performing Schools**, and generate questions for the speaker. Guided questions might include the following:*

- *What are you currently doing in your school or district to improve struggling schools?*
- *Review the recommendations and the checklist for carrying out the five Practice Guide recommendations on pp. 8-9. Which of these actions are you currently implementing? Which would you like to learn more about?*
- *What obstacles might you face in implementing the recommendations and how might you overcome those roadblocks?*
- *What questions do you have for the authors of the Practice Guide?*

Logistics

- *Crescent rounds of 6 for 150 people (horizontal set up)*
- *2 registration tables, 2 materials table, 4 chairs, beverage table, easel and coat rack*

- *Podium and mike on riser, panel table with 4 chairs and 2 table mikes*
- *AV: lavalier mike, 2 screens, laptop (LPA provided), LCD projector, video capability speakers, internet connection, flip chart w/ markers, 3 wireless mikes in audience*

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- ***Presenter:*** Matt Dawson, Ph.D., REL Midwest

Overview of the agenda for the day, the REL Network, and the Bridge events

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Framing the Conversation: Research-based Recommendations to Transform Struggling Schools

- ***Keynote Presenter:*** Rebecca Herman, Ph.D., American Institutes for Research
- ***Commentators:***
 - *Teacher*
 - *Principal*
 - *District leader*

Dr. Herman: 60 minutes to provide an overview of the IES Practice Guide series and review the recommendations in the IES Practice Guide

Commentators: 30 minutes (10 minutes each)

Questions for the panelists will be developed in collaboration with Dr Herman, but might include:

- *In what ways do the recommendations in the IES Practice Guide reflect your experience with turnarounds?*
- *What strategies have you implemented that are related to each of the recommendations?*
- *What challenges did you face and how did you address these challenges?*
- *How might the recommendations in the Practice Guide be applied to transform struggling schools in the Midwest?*

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Break

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Collaborative Discussion with Panel

11:45 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

Working Lunch: Review of Evidence-Based Resources on the Doing What Works Website

- ***Keynote Presenter:*** Dr. Rebecca Herman, American Institutes for Research

Dr. Herman will introduce the participants to the DWW website related to the IES Practice Guide and highlight a few resources that might be helpful for school and district leaders (15 minutes for participants to visit the buffet, 15 minutes for review of DWW, 15 minutes for participants to discuss how they might use these resources in their schools or districts).

12:30 – 1:45 p.m.

School Turnaround Leaders: Competencies for Success

- **Keynote Presenter:** Lucy Steiner, Public Impact

*Lucy Steiner will share the leadership competencies and actions described in, **School Turnaround Leaders: Competencies for Success** (45 minute presentation and 30 minutes for Q&A)*

1:45 – 2:00 p.m.

Transition

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Reflections and Connections

REL Midwest staff will facilitate small group discussions of the Practice Guide and the DWW website in role-alike groups (e.g. teachers, principals, district leaders) to help the participants reflect on the presentations and process the application of the research that was presented to their school or district context. Guided questions might include:

- *What are 3 useful take-aways or highlights from today's presentations that can assist in your work with struggling schools?*
- *What are 2 roadblocks you might face and how might you surmount these obstacles?*
- *What is one way that you will apply what you have learned today to improve district or school support structures for struggling schools?*

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Transition

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

Sharing Connections and Concluding Remarks

- **Presenters:**
 - Dr. Rebecca Herman, American Institutes for Research
 - Lucy Steiner, Public Impact

Dr. Herman and Ms. Steiner will highlight themes from the day, respond to questions from the audience, and offer concluding remarks.

3:30 p.m.

Adjourn