

## Connecting Research to Practice: Effective Leadership to Transform Struggling Schools

**June 25, 2010**  
**Bloomington, IN**

### Agenda

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

#### **Registration and Practice Guide Review**

*During facilitated conversations 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?*

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

- **Presenter:** Matt Dawson, REL Midwest  
*Overview of the agenda for the day, the REL Network, Bridge events and the IES Practice Guides*

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

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

- **Keynote Presenter:** Sam Redding, Ph.D., Center on Innovation and Improvement

*Review of the IES Practice Guide and the national context (60 minute presentation and 30 minutes for Q&A)*

11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

**Break**

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Panel Presentation**

*The panel will include Dr. Redding, a principal, a district leader who leads school improvement efforts, and a professor from the leadership development program at Indiana University. Dr. Redding will lead a panel discussion for 30 minutes and then allow 15 minutes for Q&A. Questions will be developed in collaboration with Dr. Redding, but might include:*

- *In what ways do the recommendations in the IES Practice Guide reflect your experience with school improvement efforts?*
- *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 Indiana?*

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

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

- **Presenter:** Matt Dawson, REL Midwest  
*Matt Dawson will introduce the participants to the DWW website related to the IES Practice Guide and highlight several resources that might be helpful for school and district leaders (15 minutes for participants to visit the buffet, 30 minutes for review of DWW, 15 minutes for participants to discuss how they might use these resources in their schools or districts).*

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

**Leadership Practices that Support High-Quality Instruction and Improvements in Student Achievement**

- **Keynote Presenter:** Eric Camburn, Ph.D. University of Wisconsin - Madison

*Dr. Camburn will describe his nationally recognized research on distributed leadership structures that support the school improvement process, including his study of leadership practices related to instructional improvement in high-poverty elementary schools and his evaluation of a professional development program for school principals - the National Institute for School Leadership.*

*(60 minute presentation and 30 minutes for Q&A)*

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

### **Break**

2:45 – 3:30 p.m.

### **Reflections and Connections**

*REL Midwest staff will facilitate small group discussions of the Practice Guide and the DWW website 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 low-performing 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 low-performing schools?*

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

### **Sharing Connections and Concluding Remarks**

#### **▪ Presenters:**

- Sam Redding, Ph.D., Center on Innovation and Improvement
- Eric Camburn, Ph.D. University of Wisconsin - Madison

*Dr. Redding and Dr. Camburn will highlight themes from the day, respond to questions from the audience, and offer concluding remarks.*

4:00 p.m.

### **Adjourn**