



Editorial: Talking Systemic Reform and Inside the Leadership Summit

by Nicole Adrian

Systemic reform seems to be a phrase that's thrown around loosely when talking about educational improvement. It sounds good—and important—but who is undertaking systemic reform, and what does it really mean?

The National Academies (www.nationalacademies.org) defines systemic reform as “a view of a system that requires understanding the whole in terms of interacting component subsystems, boundaries, inputs and outputs, feedback and relationships. In the education system, the school is the central institution for public education. The school includes many components that interact: for example, teaching, administration and finance. The school is a component subsystem of a local district, which is a subsystem of a state educational system.”

While the National Academies' website relates strictly to science, engineering and medicine, this definition can relate to any and all aspects of education. Numerous school districts across the country are undergoing systemic reform. Many of the school districts have been successful, and many have met challenges along the way. This issue of *Primary and Secondary Education Brief* includes some of their stories.

In one article, administrators from Florida's Brevard Public Schools (BPS) write, “Achieving and sustaining greatness in the public education sector requires a systemic and aligned approach that involves an engaged and supportive governing body, leadership team, workforce and community to achieve the learning and organizational goals outlined in BPS' strategic plan.” Their systemic approach led to a Governor's Sterling Award for Performance Excellence.

Additionally, this issue includes detailed information and a first-person narrative on ASQ's recent Leadership Summit. Another successful conference transpired in Fort Myers, FL, in June, in which 10 U.S. school districts were represented and about 50 people attended.

Read what summit attendees are doing to act on their key work systems and processes, and what systemic improvement challenges they've faced. Also, read about their Leadership Summit experiences—and why they think you should attend next year.

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