Creating Talent Development Schools in which All Students Succeed

CRESPAR Models Built with Collaborating Schools are Making a Difference at Elementary, Middle, and High School Levels

The Center for Research on the Education of Students Placed At Risk (CRESPAR), co-directed by Robert E. Slavin at Johns Hopkins University and A. Wade Boykin at Howard University, has a straightforward mission—to conduct the research, development, evaluation, and dissemination needed to transform schooling for students placed at risk.

What does it mean to “transform” schooling? To CRESPAR, it means schools need to change from places that sort and classify children to places that help all children succeed in demanding curricula. This can be accomplished in Talent Development schools—schools that hold all students to high standards but provide multiple pathways and research-based practices that ensure their success.

The research, development, evaluation, and national dissemination of Talent Development Schools at all levels—elementary, middle, and high school—is a major CRESPAR commitment. In this REPORT, we present the essential components of the Talent Development High School and the Talent Development Middle School, along with early evaluations of effects on student outcomes in schools where these models are being developed. We also present the components and evaluations to date of Success for All and Roots and Wings, which exemplify the Talent Development model at the elementary school level.