

Win-Win Labor-Management Collaboration In Education

Breakthrough Practices to Benefit Students,
Teachers, and Administrators

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Preface

We believe that if the ultimate goal of education reform – *improving students' educational opportunities and achievement* — is to be met, adult professional relationships in the field must be fundamentally transformed.

Standards-based reform has introduced significant accountability into the public education sector. Student learning now matters more deeply than ever before. Students are held accountable for achieving high learning standards while adults are increasingly being held responsible for creating opportunities for all students to learn. This is a fundamental change with profound implications. If student learning is truly to be central in the field of education, then the nature of professional relationships between adults in education must be significantly strengthened.

Prominent among these implications is the necessity to place student learning at the center of the educational enterprise and to organize adult professional relationships in ways that maximize student learning. Increasingly, schools and school systems will be judged by their effectiveness at improving student learning and meeting educational standards. The new requirements of standards-based education, coupled with the increasing introduction of competition to traditional public providers, makes it imperative that the professionals in mainstream public schools find new, more effective ways of working together to improve student achievement. If we are to retain the current generation of

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