

# Correlates of Effective Schools

## **1. Opportunity to Learn Time on Task**

The effective school allocates and protects a significant amount of time for instruction of the essential skills. The instruction must take place in an integrated, interdisciplinary curriculum. Effective instruction time must focus on skills and curriculum content that are considered essential, that are assessed, and most valued. There should be abandonment of less important content.

## **2. High Expectations for ALL Students**

The effective school expects that all students can attain mastery of the essential school skills. In order to meet these high expectations, a school is restructured to be an institution designed for "learning" not "instruction." Teachers and students must have access to "tools" and "time" to help all students learn.

## **3. Clearly Stated and Focused Mission**

The effective school has a clearly articulated mission. The staff shares an understanding and commitment to the mission and the instructional goals, priorities, and assessment procedures it projects. The staff accepts responsibility and accountability for promoting and achieving the mission of learning for all students.

## **4. Frequent Monitoring of Student Progress**

The effective school frequently measures academic student progress through a variety of assessment procedures. Assessment results are used to improve individual student performance and also improve instructional delivery. Assessment results will show that alignment must exist between the intended, taught, and tested curriculum.

## **5. Instructional Leadership**

The effective school practices that the principal is the "leader of leaders" not the "leader of followers." The principal understands and applies the characteristics of instructional effectiveness in the management of the instructional program. The principal and all adults must take an active role in instructional leadership.

## **6. Safe and Positive Environment**

The effective school has a positive, purposeful, businesslike environment, which is free from the threat of physical harm. Desirable student behaviors are consistently articulated and expectations are clear. Students help each other and what is best for all. This environment nurtures interaction between students and teachers that is collaborative, cooperative, and student centered.

## **7. Home and School Relationship**

The effective school builds trust and communication within the school, parents and community. Forming partnerships with the parents and community enables all stakeholders to support the mission of the school and have the same goals and expectations.