

SCHOOL ACADEMIC RIGOR AND SUPPORT SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

(Modified Version of Breaking Ranks II, Appendix 1, pp. 163–166)

- Step 1:** Please rate 'Importance at Our School' from 1 to 5. 1 = not important, 5 = very important.
- Step 2:** Please rate 'Exists at Our School' from 1 to 5. 1 = nonexistent. 5 = fully exists as an ongoing practice.
- Step 3:** Return your completed survey so that it can be compiled with the responses of other staff members from your school.

| Characteristics of Schools with Academic Rigor and Support | Importance at Our School | Exists at Our School |
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| 1. The school offers a challenging curriculum that engages all students. | | |
| 2. The school has established a rigorous core curriculum that reflects post secondary readiness standards and has eliminated core credit for remedial courses. | | |
| 3. The school has established graduation requirements that reflect its expectations that all students complete a rigorous academic program. | | |
| 4. The school offers a wide variety of honors and accelerated courses. | | |
| 5. Students representing the diversity of the school population enroll in honors and accelerated courses in all content areas. | | |
| 6. The school has a strong mathematics program that meets national standards and does not grant core credit for general math offerings. | | |
| 7. The school has a strong science program that meets applicable content and laboratory standards. | | |
| 8. The school has established structures to assure that students meet rigorous core course requirements and provides additional academic support resources for students who need them before and after school, during lunch, and/or on weekends. | | |
| 9. The school provides students with opportunities to earn college credit through dual enrollment or online enrollment programs with local colleges. | | |
| 10. The school offers structured programs and/or a pathway of courses that emphasize post secondary academic and career preparation. (For example, Advanced Placement computer technology, health careers, International Baccalaureate programs, etc.) | | |
| 11. The school provides students with learning opportunities through internships, community service, and individual research projects that link academic preparation and real-life applications. | | |
| 12. The school offers a variety of course combinations and programs that enable students to connect academic and work-related skills. | | |
| 13. All teachers consistently plan and deliver high quality instruction. | | |

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| 14. The school recruits teachers in all subject areas who are able and willing to deliver the challenging curriculum utilizing a variety of instructional and assessment techniques. | | |
| 15. The school provides teachers with opportunities to strengthen their existing content knowledge and instructional delivery capacity as needed. | | |
| 16. Teachers participate in professional development activities that prepare them to teach honors and accelerated courses or that certify them to teach Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. | | |
| 17. Teachers effectively use technology and project-based learning to foster students' success. | | |
| 18. All teachers utilize strategies to improve English language literacy development for all students. | | |
| 19. Teachers consistently meet the academic needs of diverse groups of students. | | |
| 20. Teachers consistently deliver instruction in ways that engage all students on the basis of their interests, academic needs and learning styles. | | |
| 21. Teachers collaborate with the families of their students to assure academic success. | | |
| 22. Teachers work effectively with volunteers and other sources of support to help assure student success. | | |
| 23. The school structure provides opportunities for teachers to interact and collaborate with one another. | | |
| 24. The school provides small, personalized learning environments enabling teachers to know and capitalize on their students' learning styles and to collaborate collegially. | | |
| 25. Counselors effectively advise students and help them plan for further education and careers on the basis of individual assessments and other data. | | |
| 26. The school has established a welcoming, caring, and hopeful atmosphere. | | |
| 27. The school identifies students who are struggling academically and provides them with extra academic support. | | |
| 28. Teachers schedule times before and after school or during lunch hours to coach and support students. | | |

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| 29. The school collaborates with agencies and organizations outside the school to provide students with academic support and enrichment. | | |
| 30. The teachers and counselors collaborate with parents and students to develop individual learning plans for each student. | | |
| 31. The school has established structures to ensure that every student will have a personal adult advocate to assist in personalizing his or her educational experience. | | |
| 32. The school offers assistance to students in revising personalized learning plans as their goals evolve. | | |
| 33. The school provides structures that encourage students to serve as academic support resources to other students. | | |
| 34. The school identifies students at risk of failure and provides transitional structures and strategies to support their success. | | |
| 35. The school provides programs to assure the successful mastery of English language and numeric skills. | | |
| 36. The school has personalized learning by establishing academies or small school learning settings. | | |
| 37. The school expects all students to engage and perform as if they are preparing for post-secondary education. | | |
| 38. The school integrates technology into all aspects of the curriculum, instructional methodology, and assessment strategies. | | |
| 39. Prior to or at the beginning of high school, all students undergo point of entry academic and interest assessments to inform an individual 4-year development plan that links to post secondary goals. | | |
| 40. The school requires all students to take the PSAT or PLAN. | | |
| 41. The school offers on-site standardized test preparation for students. | | |
| 42. The school assures a testing fee does not become a barrier to any student desiring to take a test. | | |
| 43. The school provides time for students to talk and work with counselors on career and education goals. | | |
| 44. The school encourages student participation in pre-collegiate academic development programs offered by local colleges and universities. | | |
| 45. The school invites representatives of post-secondary institutions to meet with students on site. | | |

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| 46. The school provides counselors and teachers with college placement data. | | |
| 47. The school helps students explore different colleges and complete college admission and financial aid applications. | | |
| 48. The school meets with families (with special outreach to underserved populations) about college expectations for students and how families can help. | | |
| 49. The school helps families identify sources of financial support for post-secondary education. | | |
| 50. Counselors meet with representatives of local post-secondary institutions to promote the acceptance of graduates into their schools. | | |