

15 April 2024

Many things are at play when looking at what causes learning to occur or impedes learning from occurring. Even more variables enter when looking at the rate of learning. The vast array of concerns encompasses things like school culture, leadership, class size, use of paraeducators, technology uses, professional learning communities, professional development, positive behavior supports, instruction, curriculum, family engagement, etc. Within each of these concerns are actions, skills, and dispositions that help to increase or work to decrease the effectiveness of learning.

For a school to be deemed effective by state measurement systems in Utah, students must learn the material associated with the content specific to the course of study prescribed for that school year and be able to demonstrate evidence on the new knowledge. However, not all students come and start school at the same level. Despite the outside factors on a student body, the intent of school improvement is to help the school respond as they work to help all students to overcome any existing deficiencies and grow toward becoming proficient.

There are many levers that help improve academic outcomes for students. These levers are varied and overlapping. They work to organize the school via structures. Leadership is a vital lever used to improve academic outcomes for students. That leadership must be shared amongst many actors in the school and all levels on the organization. School culture with its many descriptors is a lever that must be pulled to produce desirable student academic learning. Clearly, instruction is the lever employed to produce learning. Also, as much as is possible, educators work to engage with families to produce better academic outcomes for students. These five aspects of schools must be focused on regularly for the school to function properly.

I am pleased to oversee Skyline High School that is constantly working to establish effective structures, maintain and grow an amazing culture, has a powerful leadership team that guides the school as it is constantly trying to improve the effectiveness of instruction and is always seeking a positive partnership with families. This is why Skyline is Utah's premier public high school. It is also why Skyline is so effective at helping students to RISE everyday as Eagles.

Please, tell us about the teachers who you feel most grateful for and why. Here is the link.

<https://forms.gle/ucQADTDhwRXkFvD2A>

Skyline community honors Ms. Schwartz. Ms. Schwartz is a very thoughtful, helpful, and engaged teacher. Thank you, Ms. Schwartz.

Dr. Mitch Nerdin

Principal Skyline High School