

MAPCS Leadership Team's Tenants



Turning Points Principles*

■ Teach a curriculum grounded in rigorous, public academic standards, relevant to the concerns of adolescents and based on how students learn best

■ Use instructional methods designed to prepare all students to achieve high standards and become lifelong learners

■ Staff middle grade schools with teachers who are expert at teaching young adolescents, and engage teachers in ongoing professional development

■ Organize relationships for learning to create a climate of intellectual development and a caring community of shared educational purpose

■ Govern democratically through direct or representative participation by all school staff members, the adults who know students best

■ Provide a safe and healthy school environment as part of improving academic performance and developing caring and ethical citizens

■ Involve parents and communities in supporting student learning and healthy development

Six practices translate these principles into action in each school and throughout a network of Turning Points schools in a district. Within each area of practice, teacher teams, a school leadership team, and faculty committees, engage in collaborative work.

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The Six Turning Points Practices

■ **Improving Learning, Teaching, and Assessment for All Students:** working collaboratively to set high standards, close the achievement gap among students, develop curriculum that promotes habits of mind and intellectual inquiry, utilize a wide range of instructional strategies and approaches, emphasize the teaching of literacy and numeracy

■ **Building Leadership Capacity and a Professional Collaborative Culture:** creating a democratic school community, fostering skills and practices of strong leadership, establishing regular common planning time, embedding professional development in the daily life of the school

■ **Data-based Inquiry and Decision Making:** setting a vision based on the Turning Points principles, collecting and analyzing multiple sources of data to help improve areas that most impact learning, teaching, and assessment, setting annual measurable goals

■ **Creating a School Culture to Support High Achievement and Personal Development:** creating structures that promote a culture of high-quality learning and teaching, establishing small learning communities, eliminating tracking, lowering student-teacher ratios, building parent and community partnerships

■ **Networking with Like-minded Schools:** participating in network meetings, summer institutes, and forums; visiting other Turning Points schools

■ **Developing District Capacity to Support School Change:** building district capacity through collaboration