

5Essentials



The current conversation on school reform tends to focus on one outcome: test scores. While test scores are an important indicator of school success, they only tell part of the story. Too often, the story revolves around “teaching to the test.” **Let’s change the conversation.**

5Essentials takes the conversation beyond test scores to what matters most for improved student learning—the five Essentials for school success:

- **Effective Leaders**
- **Collaborative Teachers**
- **Involved Families**
- **Supportive Environment**
- **Ambitious Instruction**

A diagnostic assessment of school effectiveness based on more than 20 years of research, 5Essentials assesses schools’ strengths and weaknesses in five key areas. Through student and teacher surveys, survey scoring, customized reporting, and training for principals and district leaders, 5Essentials helps schools organize, prioritize, evaluate, and achieve sustainable improvement.

The 5Essentials System

The 5Essentials System includes survey administration, research-tested scoring, report delivery, as well as phases of training integrated throughout implementation. The 5Essentials system:

- **Reliably measures** changes in a school organization through its School Improvement Survey.
- **Predicts** schools success through diagnostic analysis.
- **Creates** individualized actionable reports for schools, districts, parents, and community partners.
- **Provides** training to school leadership and teachers.

How It Works

Following initial consultation and training, the 5Essentials School Improvement Survey is administered to teachers and students.

After in-depth scoring, schools and district leaders receive a set of individualized, web-based reports that offer a comprehensive picture of the school environment and provide a framework for understanding the 100-plus survey questions.



These reports include:

- Performance on the 5Essentials
- Changes in school performance over time

One-on-one support is provided to superintendents to discuss implications and next steps in developing a school improvement plan. Administrators and principals are trained in how to navigate the reporting tool and assist others in understanding the results.

The Research Behind 5Essentials

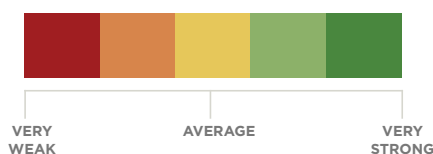
Since 1990, the Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute has been studying schools and what makes them successful, identifying five Essentials for school success:

- **Effective Leaders** The principal works with teachers to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.
- **Collaborative Teachers** The staff is committed to the school, receives strong professional development, and works together to improve the school.
- **Involved Families** The entire school staff builds strong relationships with families and communities to support learning.
- **Supportive Environment** The school is safe and orderly. Teachers have high expectations for students. Students are supported by their teachers and peers.
- **Ambitious Instruction** Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.

Reading a 5Essentials Report

Performance reports on the 5Essentials are made available online and shown in color-coded, easy-to-read diagrams.

SAMPLE:



Why choose 5Essentials?

Past research has shown that schools strong on three or more of the five essentials were 10 times more likely to improve student learning than schools that were weak.

To learn about partnering with UChicago Impact on a 5Essentials program for your school system, contact: 5Essentials@uchicago.edu

For more information on 5Essentials, visit: uchicagoimpact.org/5Essentials