

# nbrs2014 TALKS

## Crowd-sourcing ed reform

## Meeting the Challenge of Students Living in Poverty

U.S. Department of Education Regional Representatives Helen Littlejohn, Elizabeth Williamson, and Dennis Bega facilitated a networking discussion on "Meeting School Challenges" at the 2014 National Blue Ribbon Schools ceremony. Ideas collected here were generated by ceremony participants.



### Build Literacy Skills

- Explicitly teach content-area reading strategies in intervention classes & reinforce in general education classes.
- Have teachers understand and teach disciplinary literacy strategies in all general education classes.
- Focus on course and unit organizational skills. Have teachers and students focus on relationships between entire course and individual units.

(With these actions, our at-risk students outperformed our general ed students on our state assessment.) *Paul Furthmyre, Principal, [Anaconda High School](#), Anaconda, MT*

### Create an Early Focus on College

- More options for college readiness classes.
- Options for college-level classes in high school

- More parent – student connection activities.
- Summer options for those students who are gap students.

*Kodi Gorake, Principal, Katie Ruter, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, [ACGC Elementary School](#), Atwater, MN*

### Overcome Rural Constraints

- Offer online courses for students who need advanced courses that we cannot offer.
- School-provided services.
- Community partnerships
- Grant writing
- Continuing PD

*Jim Armendariz, Principal, [Ogden Elementary School](#), Ogden, KS*

### Break the Cycle of Poverty

- Community partnerships
- Grant writing
- Continuing PD

*Jim Armendariz, Principal, [Ogden Elementary School](#), Ogden, KS*

### Accommodate Transient Students

- District curriculum correlated across district.
- District social worker/Medicaid worker
- Backpack snacks/winter warmth
- District transportation for homeless students.

- Small Smiles dental care. *Shawn Wooton, Principal, [West View Elementary School](#), Spartanburg, SC*

### Take a District Approach

- Our vision is focused on strategic investments in literacy and literacy development to improve student learning today for the world of tomorrow.
- The district has provided free all-day every day Kindergarten even though it was not fully funded by the state.

*Dr. Klint Willert, Superintendent, Brainerd Public Schools District 181, Brainerd, MN*

### Promote College Readiness

- Dual credit opportunities
  - Parent/principal coffees monthly
  - AVID
  - 30 minute daily advisory
  - Day of service
- Michael Arreola, Principal, [Early College High School](#), Farmers, TX*



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