

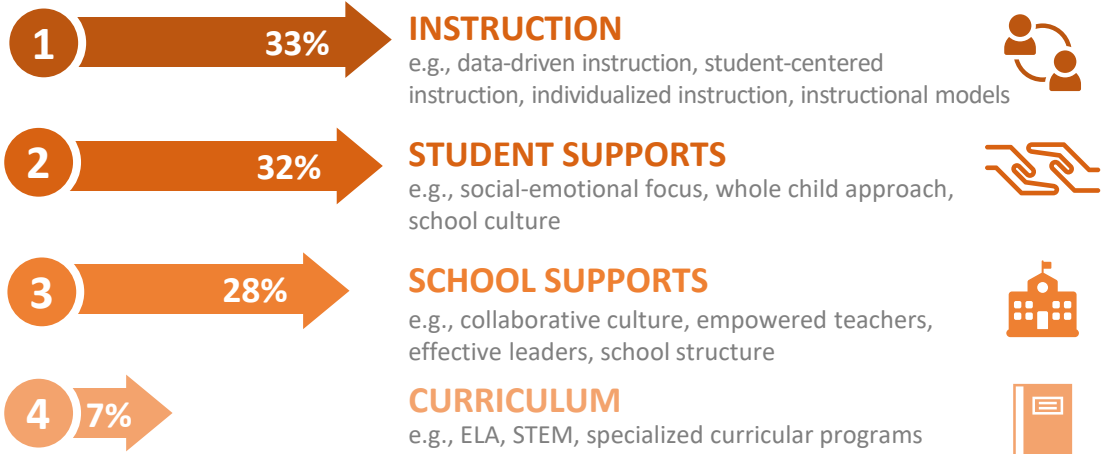
# WHAT DRIVES 2018 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS TO THE TOP?

A review of the

## KEY DRIVERS

reported by 2018 applicants revealed that regardless of school size, level, locale, percentage of disadvantaged students, or diversity

**65% attributed their success to INSTRUCTION or STUDENT SUPPORTS**



within each **KEY DRIVER**  
some practices stood out as especially strong

1

## INSTRUCTION

### DATA-DRIVEN INSTRUCTION

#### Leeton Elementary School, Leeton, MO

Utilizing data to understand student needs goes beyond student achievement data to make informed decisions by including parent and student surveys.

#### Center Point-Urbana High School, Center Point, IA

Instructional practice is informed by Data Teams structured by content area using a five-step data review process to analyze data, identify strengths and challenges, and prioritize needs.

#### Falmouth High School, Falmouth, ME

A student-centered team approach to RTI and MTSS provide a systematic, coordinated, and intentional mechanism to problem-solve and adapt instruction and intervention in real time.

### INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORTS

#### Mariemont Elementary School, Cincinnati, OH

Flexible and intentional learning environments support independent practice, whole group meetings, and small group instruction.

#### East Greenwich High School, East Greenwich, RI

A multistep performance-based task process associated with each course provides students multiple and varied opportunities to demonstrate proficiency.

#### Steller Secondary School, Anchorage, AK

Students take responsibility for defining their own educational goals, selecting or devising a course of study and assisting to continuously evaluate their performance.

2

## STUDENT SUPPORTS

### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL FOCUS

#### Settles Bridge Elementary School, Suwanee, GA

Teachers and leaders promote relationship-building by meeting the needs of the whole child while inspiring them to excel.

### SCHOOL CULTURE

#### Central Valley School, Buxton, ND

A focus on student engagement creates an atmosphere in the school where critical thinking, problem-solving, fun, and excitement abound.

### [The STEM Early College at NC A&T, Greensboro, NC](#)

Integrating character development, service learning, and STEM serve as a foundation to innovation.

### [West Shore Junior/Senior High School, Melbourne, FL](#)

Weekly Small Learning Communities focused on the social-emotional needs of students foster an environment of caring and commitment.

### [Cascade Senior High School, Clayton, IN](#)

High expectations for students is matched by intentionally planning and supporting a growth mindset and school culture.

### [Captain Johnston Blakely Elementary School, Bainbridge Island, WA](#)

Creating a culture where student voice is actively used to engage students accelerates student learning.

## 3

## SCHOOL SUPPORTS

### COLLABORATIVE CULTURE

#### [University of Hartford Magnet School, West Hartford, CT](#)

Collaborative grade level coaching rounds encourages collegiality, increases teacher confidence, and increases trust.

#### [KIPP DC Promise Academy Public Charter School, Washington, DC](#)

Teachers are provided planned opportunities to work as a collaborative team to motivate each other, learn from each other, plan together, and reflect on practice.

#### [Anne L. Magee Elementary School, Edinburg, TX](#)

Teamwork is a philosophy that drives collaborative peer mentoring and observation, vertical alignment, grade level meetings, and trainings.

### EMPOWERED TEACHERS/EFFECTIVE LEADERS

#### [James Fallon Elementary School, Wayne, NJ](#)

Creating a positive learning environment helped establish a partnership between the principal and teachers, students and parents.

#### [Homer Middle School, Homer, AK](#)

Recruiting, retaining, and sustaining a great staff is done through intentional planning and having a proactive approach to hiring opportunities in the future.

#### [Bloomsburg Area High School, Bloomsburg, PA](#)

Investing in teacher capacity rather than a revolving door of programs and initiatives allows teachers to focus on student learning.

## 4

## CURRICULUM

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

#### [Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies, Mesa, AZ](#)

Intentionally embedding literacy across all content areas has created a culture of literacy and improved student outcomes.

### SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH

#### [Christ the Teacher School, Fort Lee, NJ](#)

An emphasis on engineering and integration of math skills, laboratory sessions, and technology have boosted student problem-solving skills.