

# Improve your school, get it right the first time

**Develop Schools** assist in [improving schools](#) affiliated to national and international boards (e.g. CBSE, ICSE, IB, IGCSE, CIE), individual and corporate clients

We work with both: For Profit and Non-Profit clients

Improving a K12 school is a challenging process and needs to be handled sensitively keeping all the stakeholders in the education environment, namely Promoters-Leadership-Staff-Students-Parents/society into consideration.

Clearly defined improvement areas after a thorough audit is the first step to the process. Getting in a buy in from the stake holders is the key to bringing in the required change. Challenges faced are

## 1. The children do not learn sufficiently in school

We can be proud of our school for years as it has been an important driver in the development of the society but with the passage of time our school is also facing significant challenges: Many students do not benefit sufficiently from their schooling. The vast majority of children do well in school. They can, however, improve even further. And it is necessary that they do. Society in general, the labour market and the globalising world continuously demand more from all of us. We need to bring in new age learning tools while creating learning environments which prepare our students for tomorrow.

**Develop Schools** team brings in expertise of handling similar situations in other geographies and over the period of years

An integrated and active school day with more time for improved quality teaching and activities needs to be bought in

## 2. Enhancing Your School's Appearance

**Beautify your school.** Increasing your school's visual appeal is one of the fastest and most inexpensive ways of improving it. Take a look around your school and see what kind of cosmetic changes you might be able to easily make. Picking weeds, pruning trees, planting flowers, giving walls a fresh coat of paint, and picking trash up out of a field or parking lot are all ways of quickly making things look better.

- ✓ Start a garden
- ✓ Paint a mural
- ✓ Create a cleanliness drive

**Lead a campaign to make your school grounds healthier.** Some schools, particularly older ones, may have hazardous substances present, such as lead paint, rusting pipes, or asbestos. Removing these substances can be expensive and complicated. However, if members of your school community are concerned about these substances, talk to stake holders about what can be done to improve the school

### 3. Improving Learning Opportunities beyond the classroom

**Boost activities and clubs.** If enthusiasm or a sense of community seems to be lacking at your school, then you may want to increase extracurricular opportunities. There can be something for everyone to get involved in—the sky's the limit! Campaign to increase participation in activities that your school currently offers, or start a new club if there is interest. Some of the many possibilities include.

- Sports
- Art & craft Club
- Drama Club
- Garden Club
- Technology Club
- Future Business Leaders
- Singing and musical instrument playing, Chorus

**Make school more engaging.** If you feel that your school needs improving because it is boring, don't give up hope! Talk to Leadership, school administrators, and students about developing ways to **make learning fun** and more engaging. If the goal is to innovate and improve your school, then everyone will be on board and willing to develop ideas

**Encourage healthy eating.** There are many conversations going on now about improving school meals and eating healthier in general. If these issue are important to you, try leading a campaign to ban candy, junk food, and soft drinks on your school grounds. You can also talk with your PTA and canteen staff about how to offer healthier choices at meal times

**Fundraise.** If there is a project at your school that needs financial support, whether it is painting a mural or purchasing school supplies for needy students, you can help start a **fundraising campaign**. There are lots of ideas, such as.

- Asking local merchants to contribute coupons or gift certificates that can be sold in a raffle
- Hosting a silent auction for student artwork
- Hosting a inter school student tournament with an entrance fee and sponsors

#### 4. Making School Inclusive

**Let everyone join in.** Make sure that all students have a chance to participate in activities and games, no matter what their skill level or ability. For example, when playing a game that only takes 11 players at a time, rotate people in and out, so that everyone can have a chance. Letting all students have a chance, even if they aren't great at the game, will make things more fun and friendly

**Be nice to new people.** Being new at a school can make a person feel lonely. Whenever there is a new student at your school, make a special effort to make him or her feel welcome.

- Invite the new student to sit with existing students for lunch.
- Introduce him or her to new friends.
- Make sure the new student is included in games and activities.

#### 5. Gathering Support

**Talk to stake holders.** If you think that your school needs improvement, you can start by talking to its stake holders (principal, staff, parents, students, for example). You might also attend other local school board meetings to learn more. Getting support is important not only because many projects will need official approval, but also because it is a way of communicating your concerns.

**Let people contribute in their own way.** Many school improvements will need a lot of support. However, this doesn't mean that everyone has to contribute in the same way. When raising support to improve your school, make sure that people understand there is room for everyone to help.

**Ensure that improvements continue.** Efforts to improve your school will only have their full impact if they can continue in the future. Creating a sense of school history, or institutional memory, is important for to long-term success.

#### 6. Making the school project viable

**Understand the finances.** Most challenges occur because we do not understand the depth of the issue. If a school incurs a certain expense then the same will have to be bought in from the current fee structure or new activity. Incur expenses only after having a clear recovery plan else the organization will face financial issues in the long run. The incurred expenses if done for the benefit of the students' needs to be clearly and visibly articulated for the parents to appreciate.

**Seeking professional assistance.** It is prudent that schools planning to make financial investments need to seek professional advice all along the process, right from planning to sourcing of funds to usage and recovering of investments.

## 7. **Getting students to enroll in a school**

**Present the offering clearly.** It is important for every school seeking in new students to present its offering visibly to potential parents. A well laid out walk through with professional handholding of interested parents makes the process easier in the initial phase of admissions. Over a period of time the school activities and the existing students / parents become the reference point to potential parents' shortlisting the school for admissions.

**A well planned marketing.** A long term well laid out planned with focused out based activities assists get results in a cost and time bound manner.