

## Comprehensive School Reform Focus Group: STUDENT

### Research Coordinator/CSR Facilitator Instructions

- The students should complete the Focus Group Sign-In Sheet.
- The focus group should last approximately 60 minutes.
- It is not necessary that all students respond to each question as long as they are engaged and participating in the discussion.
- The Student Focus Group Protocol is divided into five questions with the corresponding CSR indicator number indicated in parentheses at the end of questions (ex. (1.1)).

### Focus Group Questions

1. Let's talk about the goals for your school's improvement plan.
  - Are you aware of your school's improvement plan?
  - What are the goals of the school's improvement plan? (1.1)
  - How are the goals stated? (1.1)
  - How have you been involved in shaping/creating those goals? (1.1)
  - Do you think these goals are good ones to help improve your school? If so, why? (1.1)
  - How have school administrators given you information about these goals? (1.1)
  - Do you know about state and federal student achievement standards? Can you give me some examples?
  - How have state and federal student achievement standards been addressed in the goals of your school's improvement plan? (3.1)
2. Have you worked with others in shaping activities that are a part of the school's improvement plan? Who have you worked with? (1.5)
  - The person that developed the plan/model your school is using?
  - Teachers and administrators here at the school?
  - Members of the community that are supposed to be helping with the project?
  - Other students?
  - Local or state officials?
3. In what ways does the school ask how you feel about the student achievement results at your school? How is what you say used to make sure the school's improvement plan is effective in reaching its goal(s)? (3.4)
4. Do the goals of the school's improvement plan help all students to do better on tests and class work? Why? (3.5)
  - Do the school's reform goals help students that consistently perform poorly? Explain.
  - Do the school's reform goals help students that are not challenged by the activities in the school's reform plan? Explain.
5. Do you know if the school has an organized system of gathering student achievement information? If so, what does it involve? (4.1)

- Does the school look at other things besides test scores when talking about student achievement information?
- If so, can you give me some examples of other things the school looks at?

Thank you for taking time to answer these questions. The information you have given me will help make the school improvement plan even better!