

BLR Cohort Schools Site Visit Results

January 2024

The list below includes the seven common themes that emerged in the sessions with the BLR Cohort Schools during site visits to six of the schools in fall 2023.

Pervasive culture of learning.

Learning was expected of all students and encouraged by all personnel in the school building, from the superintendent to the cafeteria and building maintenance staff.

Focus on the student.

Educators knew and cared about their students, and developed systems for best dealing with different students/issues. Students shared they knew that they mattered.

Respected and shared leadership.

This relationship was true between superintendent and principal and between principal and teachers. Leaders put good personnel in place, trusted them to do their jobs, and provided needed support while establishing clear expectations.

Collaboration and accountability.

Teachers worked together and held each other accountable for reaching needs of students.

Learning is fun and engaging.

Teachers talked about using a variety of teaching methods to best engage their students for different lessons, and students reported that their teachers made learning fun.

School provided an environment where students felt both safe and cared for.

Students noted that they felt all staff cared for them and had their best interests – both academically and personally – at the forefront, while teachers and administrators expressed knowledge of and concern for many of the circumstances and experiences of their students.

Community and Parental Support is strong.

Administrators, teachers, and students all felt that parents were involved and invested in their children's learning and that the community as a whole took pride in and contributed to the well-being of the schools, staff, and students.