

Creating Small Learning Communities

This resource kit offers planning and implementation suggestions to help secondary schools establish small learning communities. It includes a review of the research, case studies of successful small learning communities, and tools and tips for setting them up.

The kit is helpful not only for creating a new small learning community, but also for improving the curriculum in an existing one to make it more interdisciplinary and more rigorous and relevant.

Education leaders at the school and district levels, staff developers, leadership teams, and board of education members

will find this resource useful. It will assist them in anticipating obstacles to small learning communities and working effectively to implement school programs that best meet student needs.

Many Benefits to Small Learning Communities

A small learning community makes it easier to forge staff collaboration and improve the focus on rigorous and relevant student learning. A small learning community also provides the personalized environment that encourages high student achievement. Other benefits include improved attendance and graduation rates and fewer discipline problems.

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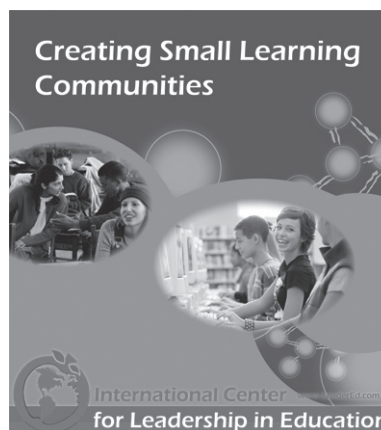
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Resource Kit

#K-04-SLC
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All items in the Appendix are also on the CD-ROM.

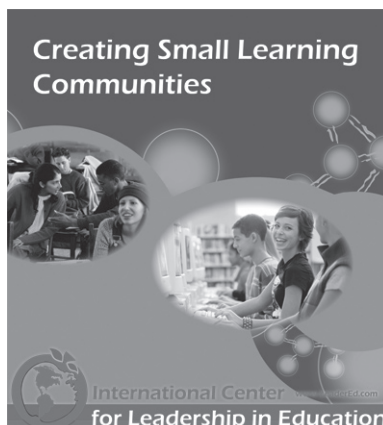
Included in *Creating Small Learning Communities* are two other resources. Electronic versions of all tools introduced in the text are provided on a CD-ROM. A DVD from the 2004 Model Schools Conference, “Successful Schools – What Makes Them Work,” shares the findings of a study of 30 of the most successful high schools in the U.S. One key recommendation is to “focus instruction around students’ interests, learning styles, and aptitudes through a variety of small learning community approaches.”



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