

School Quality Reviews

About SchoolWorks.

SchoolWorks is an education consulting group whose mission is to advance all aspects of student learning and well-being by building the capacity of educators and educational institutions to assess, plan for, and achieve student success. To accomplish this, we work from a set of core values:

- **Accountability.** We believe that accountability for results is an essential component of every successful organization.
- **Based on Evidence.** We seek to understand the context and practices of schools, districts, school networks, authorizers, and communities through evidence-based processes.
- **Collaboration and Learning.** We serve our clients best by collaborating and learning with them.
- **Diversity.** We practice cultural competence in the diverse schools and communities in which we work, and are strengthened by differing backgrounds, beliefs, experiences, and approaches.
- **Effective Practices.** Our team members identify effective practices across the education landscape and interpret and apply them in all aspects of our work.

School Quality Reviews

The SchoolWorks School Quality Review (SQR) is a process that educators can use to understand and explain how well schools are working to educate students. The SQR places a team of experienced educators from SchoolWorks in a school to collect and analyze data about school performance. The SQR is based on a transparent, research-based set of standards –*SchoolWorks Quality Criteria* – that serve as the framework to understand the effectiveness of school practices.

The Process



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SchoolWorks

Why seek a School Quality Review?

SQRs serve a variety of purposes. An SQR may be used to: provide summative findings about a school program; provide formative feedback that a school can use to consider the effectiveness of its own practices; and perform as a catalyst for improvement and action-planning purposes.

- **Summative review.** This type of review is used to provide findings in relation to the SQC about a school at the current time, most often for accountability purposes. Such reviews typically respond to specific criteria and do not include recommendations. A charter school authorizer, for example, might use a summative review to inform its decision about renewing the school for an additional term.
- **Formative review.** This type of review provides specific findings in relation to the SQC and includes recommendations. Findings are the site visit team's conclusions about school strengths and areas for growth.
- **A review followed by on-site improvement planning.** This review is used to assess conditions at a school prior to improvement planning. Findings are used to identify strengths and areas for growth. This type of review also uses an action planning process in which the site visit team and the school work together to identify prioritized areas for improvement. The outcome is a prioritized action plan of next steps, including strategies, resources, and timelines to accomplish goals.

Personalized Learning (PL) Reviews. SchoolWorks Personalized Learning Reviews help schools plan for and assess their adoption of PL strategies. Our proprietary PL rubric provides a rating for progressive implementation success across multiple indicators related to common objectives of PL programs—and it's easily adaptable to school/district-defined frameworks.

About SchoolWorks Quality Criteria (SQC)

SchoolWorks Quality Criteria are a set of standards used to assess the critical aspects of a school's culture, organization, and academic program. The SQC and its indicators are based on research of best educational practices, and the expertise that SchoolWorks brings to the process after assessing more than 1,000 schools since 1998.

Domain 1: Instruction

- *Do classroom interactions and organization ensure a climate conducive to learning?*
- *Is classroom instruction intentional, engaging, and challenging for all students?*
- *Do teachers regularly assess students' progress toward mastery of key skills and concepts, and utilize assessment data to provide feedback to students during the lesson?*

Domain 2: Students' Opportunities to Learn

- *Does the school identify and support special education students, English language learners, and students who are struggling or at risk?*
- *Does the school have a safe, supportive learning environment that reflects high expectations?*

Domain 3: Educators' Opportunities to Learn

- *Does the school design professional development and collaborative systems to sustain a focus on instructional improvement?*
- *Does the school's culture indicate high levels of collective responsibility, trust, and efficacy?*

Domain 4: Leadership and Governance

- *Do school leaders guide and participate with instructional staff in the central processes of improving teaching and learning?*
- *Do school leaders effectively orchestrate the school's operations?*
- *Does the Board provide competent stewardship and oversight of the school?*

Meet Our Experts



Jake Schmitz, M.A.Ed.
SR. PROJECT MANAGER

As the Managing Director of Instruction at SchoolWorks, Jake conducts nationwide trainings in classroom observation and manages specialized School Quality Reviews with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Dallas Independent School District. He is the former School Leader of YES Prep Gulfton and KIPP Endeavor Academy in Kansas City.



Betty Dao, M.A.Ed.
SR. PROJECT MANAGER

Betty serves as the lead instructor for the KIPP Successor Prep program—providing professional development for KIPP's rising principal leaders; and leading School Quality Reviews at KIPP schools nationwide. A former school leader, academic dean, and instructional coach, Betty has an M.A.Ed. in School Leadership from Harvard School of Education.



Robin Coyne-Hull, M.A.Ed.
SR. PROJECT MANAGER

A charter school leader for over 11 years, Robin began her work in 1995 at South Shore Charter Public School and later served as head of school for the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School – one of the highest achieving charter schools in MA. She has managed School Quality Reviews on behalf of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District since 2015.