

What Works in Middle Level Schools and Programs

Essential Elements

We know what works in middle level schools and programs: *The Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle Level Schools and Programs*. These *Essential Elements*, mandated by the New York State Department of Education in CR100.4, provide us with the charge to deliver research-based, proven programs for our early adolescents that address both academics and personal development. Read more at www.nysmsa.org.

- 1** A philosophy and mission that reflect the intellectual and developmental needs and characteristics of young adolescents.
- 2** An educational program that is comprehensive, challenging, purposeful, integrated, relevant, and standards-based.
- 3** An organization and structure that support both academic excellence and personal development.
- 4** Classroom instruction appropriate to the needs and characteristics of young adolescents provided by skilled and knowledgeable teachers.
- 5** Strong educational leadership and a building administration that encourage, facilitate, and sustain involvement, participation, and leadership.
- 6** A network of academic and personal support available for all students.
- 7** Professional learning and staff development for all staff that are ongoing, planned, purposeful, and collaboratively developed.