Create and sustain the most essential conditions for learning
Ideal conditions for teaching and learning do not happen by accident

School improvement is not something that can be left to luck, chance, or a one-size-fits-all checklist. Creating equitable, high-performing schools requires an intentional, evidence-based approach, guided by experienced educators.

Driven by our mission to help all kids learn, NWEA® School Improvement utilizes the proven 5Essentials® Framework from UChicago Impact across the essential areas for school improvement—a practice proven to promote a school or district’s long-term success.

The 5Essentials: Leading the way with a proven approach

Our approach to school improvement is grounded in the nationally renowned 5Essentials Framework from UChicago Impact. This research-based approach focuses on the five essential organizational conditions that drive improved student outcomes.

Research shows schools that are strong on at least three of the five essentials—Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction—are 10 times more likely to show substantial gains in student learning.

“How we organize schools is critical for student achievement. Improving schools entails coherent, orchestrated action across all five essential supports. Put simply, there is no one silver bullet.”

Anthony Bryk
Organizing Schools for Improvement: Lessons from Chicago
Supercharge school leader practice through school improvement leadership coaching

Research shows that the effectiveness of a school’s principal is a top factor for student achievement.

Aligned with needs uncovered by the NWEA Needs Assessment and the 5Essentials Survey, school leaders receive shoulder-to-shoulder personalized coaching, systems advising, and professional learning from NWEA coaches—enhancing their ability to serve as agents of change who develop and implement sustainable structures and behaviors critical to student growth.

“How Principals Affect Students and Schools: A Systematic Synthesis of Two Decades of Research

Principals really matter. Indeed, it is difficult to envision an investment with a higher ceiling on its potential return than a successful effort to improve principal leadership.”

Professional learning that activates your school improvement plan

NWEA offers a robust, holistic slate of professional learning experiences to strengthen leader and teacher practices that drive positive outcomes.

3 categories of professional learning experiences are available:

• 5Essentials Professional Learning developed by UChicago Impact to help leaders leverage 5Essentials Survey results to promote school improvement

• NWEA School Improvement Professional Learning features paired teacher and leader workshops around topics designed specifically to support the 5Essentials areas in school improvement plans

• Any other NWEA Professional Learning sessions can also be incorporated into school improvement plans to support specific needs and goals
A trusted partner with the tools and support you need

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

1. DESIGN
Leadership coaching and systems consulting
Create systemic conditions for improvement through services designed to the national Professional Standards for Educational Leaders.

2. ALIGN
Focuses on the 5Essentials
Align systems, practices, and protocols in curriculum, instruction, assessment, and leadership to provide an equitable education for all students.

3. MEASURE
Measures change
Gain insight into the impact of school improvement for leaders, schools, and systems using a comprehensive suite of measurement tools.

Purpose-built and personalized
Begin with a detailed needs assessment and a thorough evaluation of your data and experience to develop a plan tailored to your needs and goals.

Systems-based to propel change
Work closely with an NWEA School Improvement leadership coach to establish system-wide structures and behaviors to support the organizational conditions that promote an equitable education for all students.

Evidence- and experience-based strategies
We work with school leaders to build and implement practices that improve instruction, bolster teacher collaboration, and strengthen student outcomes.

Measure, reflect, and improve
Research-validated survey instruments, quarterly observations, and leader dialogues inspire ongoing, collaborative reflection and continuous improvement.
What’s included in the standard NWEA School Improvement solution package?

**NWEA Needs Assessment**
Pinpoint strengths and identify opportunities with our research-backed approach.

**UChicago Impact 5Essentials Survey and professional learning**
Equip leaders with the data, tools, and training they need to facilitate and sustain meaningful improvement.

**Leadership coaching**
Get shoulder-to-shoulder support and quarterly progress reporting from an educator well-versed in school improvement.

**Systems advising sessions**
We partner with your district leaders to develop structures and behaviors to support your improvement goals.

---

**Sample year one implementation**

**FALL**
- Needs Assessment
- 5Essentials Professional Learning
- 1:1 Leadership Coaching

**WINTER**
- Systems Advising Session 1
- Professional Learning for School Leaders
- Administer 5Essentials Survey
- Systems Advising Session 2
- 1:1 Leadership Coaching

**SPRING**
- 5Essentials Professional Learning
- Systems Advising Session 3
- Analyze 5Essentials Survey Results
- Administer School Leaders Outcome Survey

**SUMMER**
- Planning for Next Academic Year
- 1:1 Leadership Coaching
Take the first step toward lasting, meaningful change

Partner with us for evidence-based, holistic school improvement services.

Begin your journey at NWEA.org/School-Improvement

Citations

