

EFFECTIVE SCHOOLS

There's no doubt about it...

There are many excellent school improvement programs and initiatives out there. But educational leaders, working to meet Adequate Yearly Progress targets since 2001, have found it difficult to sustain improvements from year to year, despite their best efforts. Many are seeing improvements in year one, just to see scores backslide the next. As educators look down the road at meeting AYP in the coming years, they are recognizing that *a new program or initiative isn't enough*. They are coming to the realization that they need a *different approach* to increasing and sustaining student achievement, one that will lead to continuous improvement.

Dr. Larry Lezotte and **Effective Schools Products** offer schools, school districts, and regional agencies a framework for comprehensive change and their leaders and staffs the skills and knowledge they need to implement it through his training programs and presentations, his books, and online resources.

About Dr. Larry Lezotte

Lawrence W. Lezotte, a nationally renowned education consultant and speaker, has devoted his expansive career to assisting schools in their efforts to assure that all students learn. For 30+ years, Dr. Lezotte has conducted trainings and workshops for intermediate school districts, service centers, and school districts of all sizes, in urban, suburban, and rural settings, working with administrators, teachers, and other stakeholders. Dr. Lezotte is a sought-after speaker and has presented at many national and regional conferences throughout the years, including the Annual Effective Schools Conference in Arizona for 20+ years, with over 800 attendees each year, and the Annual Meeting of the Superintendency Institute of America for over 15 years.



Through his trainings, workshops, and conferences across the U.S. and Canada, Dr. Lezotte touches the lives of thousands of educators and tens of thousands of students each year. Dr. Lezotte's training programs not only inspire schools and districts to adopt the "learning for all" mission, but give them the information and tools they need to plan and implement continuous school improvement and raise student achievement. In recognition of his efforts, Dr. Lezotte received the *2003 Council of Chief State School Officers' Distinguished Service Award* presented each year to outstanding Americans who have made a difference in education, as well as the *2006 Champion for Children Award* from HOSTS Learning Corporation. These awards recognize the unique contribution that Dr. Lezotte has made to education.



Dedicated to Learning for All

Long before NCLB, Larry Lezotte identified the changing mission of education from mandatory attendance to mandatory learning, and championed the philosophy that all children can learn, and that schools control enough of the relevant factors to ensure that they do. This philosophy is grounded in Dr. Lezotte's early career as a member of the original team of Effective Schools' researchers with colleagues Ron Edmonds, Wilbur Brookover, and others. The research of these dedicated individuals refuted the Coleman Report's assertion that schools had no impact on learning and identified the common characteristics of successful schools—schools where all children learn. These characteristics have come to be known as the Correlates of Effective Schools.

New research is produced everyday that reinforce the credibility of the Correlates—although they are not always labeled as such—as the basis for improved student learning. Recognizing that student needs, available resources, and social, economic, and political circumstances vary from school to school, Dr. Lezotte has incorporated these important principles into a research-based, data-driven, and inclusive school improvement process that can be—in fact, must be—tailored to the needs of each school and its students.



A Comprehensive Approach to Change

Over 30 years ago, Dr. Lezotte and his colleagues Ron Edmonds, Wilbur Brookover, and other Effective Schools researchers identified the common characteristics of successful schools—schools where all children learn. These characteristics have come to be known as the *Correlates of Effective Schools*. Dr. Lezotte’s *Continuous School Improvement System*, upon which his training programs and books are based, incorporates the best research available on leadership, organizational change, total quality systems, and best practices with the Correlates, creating a framework for action that enables every school and district to:

- move beyond a “compliance” mentality and understand the vision behind and moral imperative for "learning for all";
- create a collaborative and inclusive process where everyone has a voice;
- make meaning from student achievement data and collect and analyze additional data that provide the “leading indicators” for student learning and insight into the root causes of learning problems;
- find relevant research-based strategies to address identified problems; and
- evaluate both the process and the products of the improvement effort.

This framework for change works equally well at the district and regional levels. In fact, Dr. Lezotte believes that regional support and active participation in the process is vital to helping schools meet the needs of their most disadvantaged students.



Inspiring and Empowering

Perhaps the most important part of Dr. Lezotte's multifaceted and integrated approach to change, and the message he brings to every educator to whom he speaks and with whom he works is one of empowerment and inspiration: that public education *can* meet the learning needs of *all* children. But he is quick to add that working harder at doing the same things that we've always done will not get us there. What's needed is a *new way* of doing things, and the knowledge, skills, and structures that support the new system.

This is a powerful message of hope for educators. What schools lack is not caring or commitment, but a *framework for action* that focuses every plan, program, and strategy on the mission. This message and this framework shift the focus of the improvement effort from a reactive, blaming, and negative flurry of short-term fixes to a proactive, collaborative, and positive approach that leads to lasting improvement.

Consulting & Training Services & Resources Tailored to Your Regional Needs

Overview

Just as effective instruction is tailored to each student's needs, so is effective training tailored to a region or district's specific needs. We offer a variety of consulting and training services, along with the tools and resources that will enable your staff to move from theory to practice to improved student learning. The programs and resources currently available include:

Leadership Training: Effective leadership is a critical component to continuous improvement; unfortunately, most educational leaders have received little or no training in the art and science of leadership. To fill this void, Dr. Lezotte has created a new training program entitled *Leading the Charge to Improve Our Schools* designed to help current and aspiring leaders at both the school and district levels learn the skills they will need to initiate and manage sustainable school change leading to improved student learning. This training program is available as a 2-1/2 day, single-session program.

School Improvement Team Training: School improvement teams are the “engine” of continuous improvement. But effective teams don't just “happen” – they need training in both process and content. Dr. Lezotte offers school improvement teams the knowledge and skills they will need to work together toward implementing continuous improvement strategies that lead to improved student learning. This program is generally offered in a 4-day, 2-session format over the school year. This allows teams to implement what they learn in one session and review progress with their colleagues and Dr. Lezotte in the next session.

Interactive Video Conferencing (IVC): Used alone or as follow-up support for the training programs outlined above, through IVC Dr. Lezotte can offer your principals, administrators and leadership teams the training they need without spending time and money on travel.

Tools for Implementing Continuous Improvement: Dr. Lezotte's vision for helping schools fulfill the learning-for-all mission led to the development to 3 cutting-edge online tools, which are available to augment Dr. Lezotte's training programs:

- **Reality Check**, an innovative online survey tool that helps schools create, administer, and analyze unlimited surveys of staff, parents, students and other stakeholders easily and quickly;
- **Teacher Best Practices**, quick and easy online access to research-based classroom strategies that have been tried and tested.
- **Research LiNK**, a rich online resource of the best and most relevant school improvement research published in the last two decades.

Publications: Dr. Lezotte has written many books on school improvement. His three latest books—*Stepping Up: Leading the Charge to Improve Our Schools*, *Assembly Required: A Continuous School Improvement System* and its companion *Implementation Guide*—constitute the core curriculum for his training programs. He has written many other books that are excellent ancillary texts for the trainings and outstanding resources on their own.

More in-depth descriptions of these programs and resources can be found on the following pages.