



# Priority Partner for School and District Turnaround



**School&Main Institute**  
Where community interests intersect

**Approved Priority Partner Categories**

<u>School-Based</u>	<u>District-Based</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership, Shared Responsibility and Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Use of Human Capital
<input type="checkbox"/> High Quality Core Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization the District for Successful Turnaround
<input type="checkbox"/> Academic Supports and Interventions for students	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Climate and Social-Emotional Supports	

## Model/Service Summary

SMI is based in Boston and has clients and projects in Massachusetts and around the country. We design and manage a variety of multidimensional, multi-year technical assistance efforts for school districts, foundations, state and federal agencies and other organizations.

We have worked with the Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on a range of projects since 2008 – often focused on helping schools and districts build their capacity to address the needs of all of the students they serve; for example, by strengthening school culture, building more effective systems and partnerships to support struggling students, developing leadership strategies and structures, rethinking schedules, refining student support systems and family engagement strategies, etc.).

SMI is also the state appointed receiver for the Parker Elementary School in New Bedford and has worked with other districts to deepen the “bench” of district and school leaders who can design and sustain effective school turnaround/improvement efforts.

## Considerations for Partnership Success

Over the years, SMI has been recognized for the extraordinary effectiveness of its work in communities by a variety of national organizations, including foundations, government agencies, FORTUNE magazine, the US Chamber of Commerce's Center for Workforce Preparation, the Council on Aid to Education, the American Youth Policy Forum, Abt Associates, and the federal Government Accounting Office.

We have had successful partnerships with schools and districts across Massachusetts for over 30 years. We see the greatest impact when the approach is deeply collaborative and focused on the fundamental conditions for learning – the way we do school with and for the students we serve – rather than just implementation of a particular standalone program, curriculum, or grant (we look for ways these can be leveraged to drive core changes and improvements).

## Performance Outcomes Measured

- Collaborative ownership, leadership, and implementation of school improvement strategies to address deeply rooted issues
- Improved school climate indicators among key stakeholders (students, families, staff), e.g., sense of belonging, safety, academic engagement, strong student support system
- Increases in MCAS scores
- Decrease in chronic absenteeism, behavior-related calls for assistance, disciplinary incidences

## Evidence of Effectiveness

- Parker Elementary School Turnaround: accountability percentile increased from 8% to 27% in first year of SMI involvement.
- Massachusetts Wraparound Zone Initiative: Statistically significant gains in MCAS scores compared to other schools, impact on English Learners of particular note (AIR Evaluation)
- Schools for the Future: Next Generation Learning Breakthrough model. In Jacksonville, students raised reading scores by an average of two years on the FAIR reading assessment. SFF students in Detroit gained an average of 2.5 years across all four tested ACT subjects, including a 5.6 year gain on English Language Arts.
- Federal Shared Youth Vision: Cited by U.S. General Accounting Office official as “the richest, deepest example of cross agency collaboration that I have witnessed in my 30 years in government.” (Abt Report “Common Sense, Uncommon Commitment”)
- Career Beginnings: Increased college attendance – average of 9.7% over the control and as high as 20% in some cities. Higher Ground: 15% increase in college retention. Futures: interest in middle school classes jumped 37%

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**Founded:** 1986

**Mission/Vision Statement:**  
School & Main Institute is a nationally recognized training and partnership development organization. We help organizations work together – across institutional lines or in “uncommon” coalitions – to improve their communities and the lives of young people living in them. Just as our name suggests (think: School & Main streets), we work at “intersections”-- the places where lines meet. Policy and practice. Rhetoric and reality. Converging partners and systems and interests.

**Type of Schools Served:**  
PK-12, Education Collaboratives

**Sample District and School Partnerships:**  
Fall River Public Schools  
Gardner Public Schools  
Somerville Public Schools  
Springfield Public Schools  
Boston Compact (District, Public Charter, Catholic Schools)

**Program Cost:** fee-based, varies by project. Please call to discuss goals/scope of work.

