

## **Purpose**

SchoolWorks clients often have very unique consulting needs. SchoolWorks meets these needs through its Special Projects. Special Projects are usually intensive, focused engagements of approximately three months to one year that result in a specific set of outcomes.

## **Benefits**

State departments of education, districts, charter school authorizers and educational service providers turn to SchoolWorks Special Projects to complete critical tasks quickly without having to add permanent staff or pull existing staff away from their current positions. Through its network of consultants, SchoolWorks brings unique experience and knowledge that may not be available internally.

## **Research Base**

A critical step in every Special Project is looking to the research base for best practices that will meet the client's needs. In collaboration with the client, SchoolWorks helps interpret research to devise local solutions.

## **Process and Results**

SchoolWorks uses a simple but effective process to develop a scope of work for Special Projects. In close consultation with the client, SchoolWorks follows these steps to successfully understand and meet a client's needs.

## **Special Projects**

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### **Step 1: Defining project outcomes**

*What will be different as a result of the successful completion of the project?*

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### **Step 2: Understanding the client's strengths and needs**

*What is our client's unique situation, and how do we build upon it?*

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### **Step 3: Understanding what research has to say about the challenge**

*What does research tell us about the problem to be addressed? How can we apply research knowledge to develop a unique solution?*

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### **Step 4: Planning and implementation**

*What are the specific actions we need to take for our client?*

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### **Step 5: Reflection**

*Did we reach our outcomes?*

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Contact SchoolWorks about your unique consulting needs. SchoolWorks will develop a proposal for service at no obligation. Start by reviewing the success others have had in the example SchoolWorks Special Projects on the back side of this page.

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## Example Special Projects

### Charter School Authorizers

SchoolWorks currently provides charter school evaluation services to the Massachusetts, New York and New Hampshire state departments of education. SchoolWorks has conducted hundreds of charter school reviews in New York and Massachusetts.

SchoolWorks has recently assisted the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE) in the development of a process for charter school accountability as defined in the legislation and suited to existing capacity.

### Education Service Providers

SchoolWorks often assists other education service providers to address special projects. For UCLA's National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (CRESST), SchoolWorks has developed a users guide for the software program **Quality School Portfolio (QSP)**. QSP is a free, web-based school decision support system that helps schools analyze and report on their student, teacher and parent data to improve curriculum and instruction.

### Districts

In addition to school evaluation services, SchoolWorks has assisted the School District of Philadelphia with several special projects. In the spring of 2004, SchoolWorks created an on-line course focused on literacy instruction. The purpose of the course was to improve school leaders' ability to foster good literacy instruction practices that aligned with Philadelphia's core curriculum. The course featured videos of real Philadelphia teachers and allowed participants to fully explore best practices in literacy instruction.

During the spring of 2005, SchoolWorks assisted Philadelphia in transitioning two small high school annexes into fully independent high schools. As part of the project, SchoolWorks conducted a needs assessment of both schools, developed a leadership process to regularly review student achievement data, instituted a five-day summer academy for all incoming freshman and developed a framework agreement that would allow high school students to gain college credit at local universities.



### To contact SchoolWorks

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