

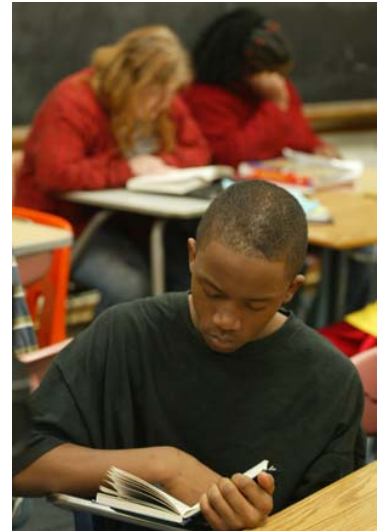
AED Middle Start and Newark Public Schools

Early adolescence is a **critical crossroads** in a student's journey to success in high school, college, and beyond. By working with AED Middle Start, you are making a commitment to the continuous development of your school and to the learning, achievement and healthy development of your middle-grades students.

What is Middle Start?

Middle Start is a nationally recognized program of AED dedicated to improving teaching and learning and ensuring academic success and healthy development for every middle-grades student. With over a decade of experience, AED Middle Start helps schools develop the characteristics of high-performing middle-grades schools including:

- **Academically challenging** environments that support the diverse needs of all learners.
- **Personalized learning communities** informed by the stages of early adolescent development.
- **Smart use of data** through reflective review, collaborative inquiry, and self-assessment to ensure continuous improvement.



The AED-Newark Middle Start Partnership

AED and Newark Public schools are collaborating to provide a web of support for middle-grades educators, their schools and their students, as part of the district's comprehensive strategy to improve student learning and achievement, and increase the numbers of students who complete high school, succeed in postsecondary education, are productively engaged in their communities, and are prepared for work and careers.

AED and Newark Public Schools will provide three levels of support:

- **Develop a master plan for middle-grades education**, which will identify best practices, spread them throughout the district, and provide long-term support for their success.
- **Establish professional learning communities** among all middle-grades school administrators and other leaders through a district-wide middle-grades leadership development program.
- **Provide professional development and on-site coaching** to a network of 10 schools that will expand successful practices to support students' success.

AED Middle Start

Expertise in Middle-Grades: Nationally recognized with extensive experience with young adolescent education.

Flexible: Programs that support and extend existing school initiatives.

Effective: Middle Start programs work! Middle Start schools demonstrate increases in achievement in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies, and show improvements in school climate, teacher collaboration, and student engagement.

How will AED Middle Start help my school?

AED Middle Start offers research-based programs that invigorate teaching and learning and improve rigor, equity, and achievement. Professional development institutes and on-site coaching for the network of 10 schools will include the following:

- **Making the Connection: Adolescent Development and Achievement.** Create a school culture and academic program that meets the cognitive, social, and emotional needs of the young adolescent.
- **DataSmart: Evidence-Based Instruction and Decision-Making.** Build school data teams to analyze and apply information about student learning, work, and engagement to improve instruction.
- **Indicators for Success: Interventions and Supports for Middle-Grades Students.** Use middle-grades and high school success indicators and appropriate interventions in English language arts, math, attendance and behavior to keep all students “on track” for success in high school and beyond.
- **Small Learning Communities.** Strengthen teachers’ collaborative inquiry, grade-level and content teams, and advisory programs to promote professional learning and ensure support for every student.

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