

Table 4

A Rank-Ordered Comparison of the Most Frequently Mentioned Factors of Successful Multilage Programs

<i>Rank</i>	<i>National Survey (N=202)</i>	<i>Surveys from Interview Sites (N=39)</i>
1	Having supportive parents who have been well informed and actively involved	Having cooperation and ongoing communication among all stakeholders
2	Having a flexible principal who is supportive and understands the change effort	Using open-ended teaching strategies such as hands-on science and math, whole language, and cooperative learning to ensure student success
3	Providing ongoing staff development that focuses on the change effort and includes the whole staff working and learning together	Having supportive parents who have been well informed and actively involved
4	Having cooperation and ongoing communication among all stakeholders	Having an understanding and belief in multilage instruction as a tool for addressing and respecting the diversity of how children develop and learn
5	Having active school board and superintendent support	Providing ongoing staff development that focuses on the change effort and includes the whole staff working and learning together
6	Having a flexible and well-organized	Having teaching teams situated in close

superintendent support

focuses on the change effort and includes the whole staff working and learning together

6 Having a flexible and well-organized plan cooperatively developed well in advance of implementation

Having teaching teams situated in close proximity to one another and given time for mutual planning and collaboration

7 Using open-ended teaching strategies such as hands-on science and math, whole language, and cooperative learning to ensure student success

Having a flexible and well-organized plan cooperatively developed well in advance of implementation

8 Having teachers who are enthusiastic, flexible, and open to change

Having a flexible principal who is supportive and understands the change effort

9 Having teaching teams situated in close proximity to one another and given time for mutual planning and collaboration

Having teachers who are enthusiastic, flexible, and open to change

10 Having an understanding and belief in multiple instruction as a tool for addressing and respecting the diversity of how children develop and learn

Having a wide range of materials that help address classroom diversity