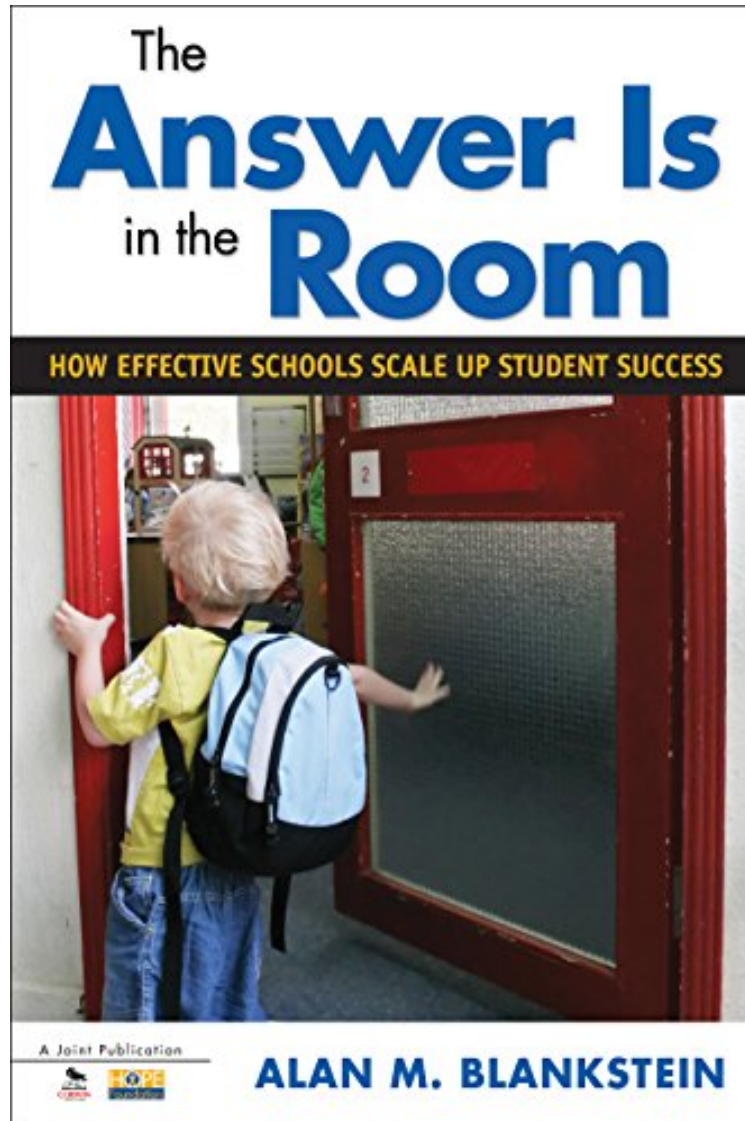


The Answer Is in the Room: How Effective Schools Scale Up Student Success

Alan M. Blankstein

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Alan M. Blankstein : The Answer Is in the Room: How Effective Schools Scale Up Student Success before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Answer Is in the Room: How Effective Schools Scale Up Student Success:

Learn the secrets of successful schools Citing wisdom from top educational experts and building on what is already

working, award-winning author Alan M. Blankstein offers tools for finding excellence in schools, scaling these practices across learning communities, and transforming low-performing schools into high-performing schools. His five-step process includes: Identifying and assessing excellence Creating an action plan Assigning resources such as time, materials, etc. Transferring excellence in the form of knowledge and skills throughout the school and district Sustaining the excellence Also included are effective strategies for sustaining student gains, closing gaps within and between schools, building leader capacity, and increasing community commitment.

"A common-sense approach to addressing the obstacles and barriers that often stymie school success. By drawing on examples from schools that have a track record of beating the odds, Blankstein and his collaborators have created a resource that will be invaluable for educators who are searching for answers to the challenges they face. Insightful, enlightening and accessible." (Pedro Noguera, Professor of Education 2011-02-14) "Blankstein's new book brilliantly summarizes a wealth of information about what works in closing the achievement gap. A must-read for practitioners." (Tony Wagner, Innovation Education Fellow and Author 2011-02-14) "Another passionate and stirring book from Alan Blankstein! Weaving together evidence, inspiring stories and resources, he leads the reader to an exciting place where it's just the norm for everyone to learn with and from others within and across their schools. And it all starts with questions. So what are you waiting for?" (Louise Stoll, Professor 2011-02-14) "In The Answer is in the Room, Alan Blankstein applies the lessons he has learned from working with schools around his 'Failure is Not an Option' program. As usual, Alan offers practical and timely lessons for schools and districts. But in this new book, he goes further to talk about what it really takes to get the answers and he posits that we already know because the answer is in the room, and it must come from all of us. This is a timely and helpful book." (Paul Houston, Author 2011-02-14) "This book has it right? the secret is that there is no secret. With Alan, we need to shout it out. We do know how to scale up student success; we do have excellent instruction to surge into classrooms; and we do have communities of practice that bring stakeholders together who reject failure. This new system is aborning, and we need to celebrate its beginnings and tend to its growth. Readers: unite with purpose!" (Robert C. Hughes, President and CEO 2011-02-14) "Every principle in this book is grounded in experience and illustrated with case examples from which any educator can learn. I believe the most essential elements for scaling up involve respecting and nurturing local examples of success, and having the courage to commit to positive change. The Answer Is In The Room has captured it brilliantly - now it's time for education policy to allow educators to bring the answer into the schoolhouse." (Maurice J. Elias, Psychology Professor 2011-02-14) "With a new explosion of bad ideas for education reform, we need Alan Blankstein's positive defiance! The Answer is in the Room is rich with tools for improving schools from the inside out. Blankstein reminds educators that we have more answers than we think? we can be the change we wish to see." (John Wilson, Executive Director 2011-02-14) "This book is phenomenal! It embodies everything I believe concerning excellence in education. Alan has documented the road to excellence. I will definitely use this book when working with districts on school improvement or moving from good to great!" (Deborah L. Wortham, Superintendent 2011-02-14) "Alan Blankstein spells out a workable approach to school improvement rooted in experience and common sense. His book is a breath of fresh air and a welcome relief from the ideological banter that passes for school reform in the current climate." (Edward Fiske, Author 2011-02-14) "The Answer in the Room really does provide the answer to school improvement. What makes it great is that it is an economical and effective answer; we know what to do and can collaboratively apply the knowledge and skills that educators in each district already have to achieve great gains in student learning." (Ken O'Connor, Author 2011-02-14) "Blankstein makes it clear that communities can create schools in which all students thrive by tapping the capacities that already exist within them. The implications of that idea are truly profound!" (Dennis Sparks, Emeritus Executive Director 2011-02-14) "Public education is filled with numerous success stories that, for some reason, aren't being taken to scale. Alan Blankstein addresses this conundrum with practical advice that will benefit educators and students. He shows how to create a culture for success that will move the ball forward at every school and in every classroom." (Joel Klein, Former Chancellor 2011-02-14) "In The Answer is in the Room, Alan Blankstein captures evidence of the school-level success which too many have until now thought simply not possible: when we as adults get it right, students can achieve at the highest of levels regardless of background." (Jon Schnur, Chairman of the Board 2011-03-01) "In this practical new book, Alan Blankstein demonstrates that greater student achievement is within the reach of every school. It doesn't require vast sums of new money or an array of new programs. It does take a small group of educators committed to inquiry, planning, and action. They will find Blankstein's book to be a useful and inspirational guide." (Hayes Mizell, Distinguished Senior Fellow 2011-03-01) "With the tools and techniques provided in Alan Blankstein's new book, educators have the potential to uncover the answers to complex issues in education that are readily at hand." (Deborah Childs-Bowen, Assistant Professor 2011-03-01) "The answer is not always in the room. Sometimes it's in the room next door. But help is often much closer than you think. Drawing on inspirational yet practical examples of health reform in Vietnam, courageous change in South Africa, and authentic improvements that get results in a range of American schools, Alan Blankstein demonstrates that throwing random reforms into the room through the door, or shouting at people in the room from up

on the roof, are not ways that make positive change happen. Blankstein knows his people, knows his schools, and knows what brings about positive, professionally driven change. This brilliant little book not only shows what works, it dignifies the overly-criticized professionals who make it all happen." (Andy Hargreaves, Author and Thomas More Brennan Chair in Education 2011-03-01)"Alan Blankstein's latest book is another must-read for educators who are passionate about bringing about change in education. The stories in the book illustrate resonant leaders who enacted the TEAM approach to school transformation. With a TEAM attitude, each leader was able to build TRUST, encourage EMPOWERMENT, establish ACCOUNTABILITY and provide MOTIVATION to bring about he needed change." (Marion Wilson, Principal 2011-03-01)"The goal of every leader should be to inspire excellence without exception. Alan Blankstein's new book illustrates this through diverse case studies and vignettes. 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