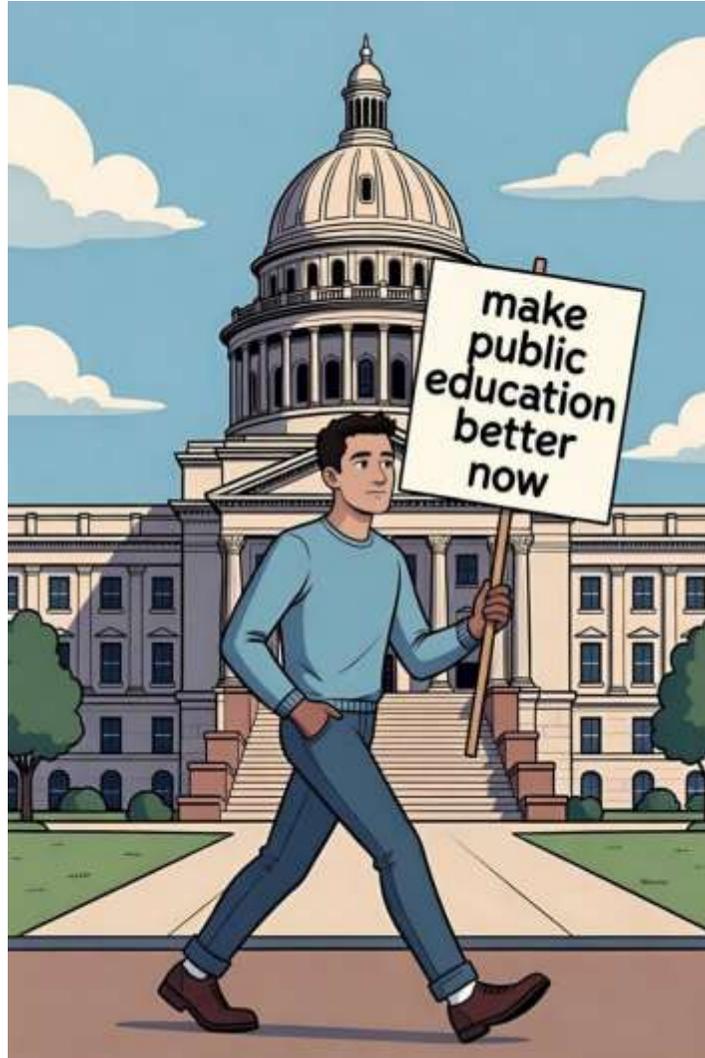


# 10 Practices in 10 Days



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## 10 Practices in 10 Days to Make Public Education Better Now

Here are **ten realistic, high-impact actions** that could be launched or encouraged nationwide in the next ten days to improve public education in the U.S. immediately.

These focus on quick-to-implement steps that districts, states, schools, teachers, parents, and communities can start right away. They draw from evidence-based practices and short-term strategies that have shown promise for boosting student outcomes, teacher support, and school climate without needing major new laws or huge budgets.

1. **Launch or expand high-impact tutoring programs.**

Many districts can quickly pair struggling students (especially in reading and math) with trained tutors for short, frequent sessions (e.g., 3–4 times per week in small groups or one-on-one). Use existing staff, volunteers, or online platforms. Evidence shows this can accelerate learning significantly, often adding months of progress in a short time (Nickow et al., 2020). Schools can identify students and start sessions within days using current resources or partnerships.

2. **Mandate daily targeted small-group instruction.**

Teachers can shift to 15–30 minutes of daily small-group work in core subjects, focusing on specific skill gaps (like phonics, basic math facts, or reading fluency). This is low-cost and uses existing classroom time. Research on differentiated instruction shows it closes gaps quickly when done consistently (Neitzel et al., 2022).

3. **Provide immediate professional development on high-impact teaching strategies.**

Districts can deliver short (1–2 hour) virtual or in-person sessions on proven techniques like clear learning targets, frequent checks for understanding, and explicit instruction. Teachers can apply these the next day. Quick PD like this boosts classroom effectiveness right away.

4. **Boost parent and family engagement with simple daily check-ins.**

Schools can send home quick guides (via email, text, or flyers) asking parents to do three things: ask kids what they learned each day, read together 15–20 minutes, and check homework. Nationwide campaigns (via social media and school communications) can start this week. Consistent family involvement often leads to better attendance and grades within weeks or months (Fan & Chen, 2001).

5. **Implement school-wide check-ins and support.**

Start daily or weekly brief "morning meetings" or quick surveys to check student well-being and help students feel calmer and more connected. Teachers can use free tools or simple scripts. This addresses emotional needs that block learning and can improve focus and behavior within days (Responsive Classroom, n.d.).

6. **Create or expand after-school or homework help sessions.**

Use existing staff, volunteers, or community partners for short daily drop-in help sessions (even 30–60 minutes). Focus on homework completion and basic skill practice. This is easy to organize quickly and helps prevent learning loss.

7. **Distribute free or low-cost high-quality learning resources.**

Push out free digital tools, apps, or printable materials (e.g., Khan Academy links, reading passages, math games) to every student and family via school websites, emails, or texts. Nationwide coordination can happen fast through education networks or state departments.

8. **Reduce non-essential administrative tasks for teachers.**

Principals and districts can immediately cut paperwork, meetings, or extra duties for one week (or longer) to give teachers more time for planning and teaching. Simple directives like this free up energy for classroom impact right away.

9. **Run a nationwide "no-excuses attendance push".**

Schools can start daily attendance tracking with quick calls/texts home for absent students, plus incentives like recognition or small rewards. Better attendance directly increases valuable learning time and is one of the fastest levers for improvement (Attendance Works, n.d.).

10. **Organize community volunteer drives for schools.**

Encourage parents, retirees, college students, and local groups to volunteer for reading buddies, classroom help, or supply drives. Social media and school announcements can launch this in days. Extra adult support improves student engagement and gives teachers breathing room.

These steps are practical because they rely on existing people, time, and tools rather than waiting for funding or policy changes. Many build on **proven short-term interventions** like tutoring and family involvement. While long-term fixes (like improved classroom management and better administrative support, higher teacher pay, etc.) are needed, these can create quick wins for students, teachers, and schools nationwide.

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