... Isola and Cummins describe the processes and strategies employed by educators to transform this school into one capable of addressing the varied and complex needs of its students. Educators will appreciate the detailed nature of the analysis presented. Instead of simply offering platitudes and “research-based” practices, the authors take a practical approach in describing the obstacles the school encountered on its journey toward progress and how these were addressed. Thoughtful, insightful, and accessible, this book will be a useful resource and a helpful guide to educators who genuinely seek to make a difference.

—PEDRO A. NOGUERA, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Education, UCLA
Faculty Director, Center for the Transformation of Schools
This is the story of how Sanchez Elementary School successfully implemented evidence-based instruction to transform the learning experiences of students from a low-income and linguistically diverse community in the Mission District of San Francisco.

**Key focus areas of the transformation process:**

1. **Development of dynamic learning communities** that relate empirical research of what works for diverse students, schools, and communities to the concrete challenges faced at Sanchez School.

2. **Shared leadership and results-oriented cycle of inquiry** to build capacity for effective learning across generations within the school community.

3. **Multi-dimensional roles of the school principal**, including instructional leader, resource manager, social architect of learning, and community organizer/activist.

4. **Evidence collection**, including student achievement data, performance-based assessments, teacher leadership development, paraprofessional career ladder, and parent education and activism.