Climate & Culture Dashboard
The Turnaround Office recently launched its new Climate & Culture Dashboard. The dashboard allows individual schools to review their various leading indicators (i.e. student and staff attendance, student discipline, perception data from students, staff and parents). The dashboard provides schools a one-stop shop to monitor and respond to these essential indicators. A presentation of the dashboard and the broader approach to monitoring these indicators will be held at the January 16th SSTAGE Promising Practices Conference at the Classic Center in Athens.

Health & Wellness Initiative
Mary Lauren Salvatore is the newest member of the CTO team. Mary Lauren, a graduate and former Project Director at Emory University, is tasked with designing a comprehensive health and wellness strategy for partner schools. The first task is conducting student health screens (asthma, hearing, language and communication, mental/behavioral health, nutrition, oral health, vision). This focus on non-academic needs is an essential expectation of the First Priority Act and a pivotal component of the CTO’s theory of action to improve academic outcomes.

Second Semester 90-Day Plans
Prior to the holiday break, all CTO partner schools completed a draft of their second semester 90-day plan. These collaborative efforts, which included district, school, CTO, and RESA representatives, lay the foundation for the priorities for each school. Based on feedback from schools and districts, the 90-day plan concept has successfully generated the essential focus on areas specific to each school’s needs. Simply, as Dr. Thomas stresses, the 90-day plan is the school’s road map toward improvement.

Year-One Summary Report
The Turnaround Office will be submitting its year-one summary report to the Governor’s Office and to leaders of the General Assembly. The report details the turnaround office’s launch process, impressive early results, the overarching theory of action, and critical enhancements needed for 2019-20.

Regarding results, the first cohort of schools that partnered with the Chief Turnaround Office demonstrated impressive overall academic gains by improving by an average of 6.7% on their CCRPI. Four of the 11 schools improved enough to be removed from the “turnaround eligible” list. Although impressive, these results provide only a one-year indicator of the Chief Turnaround Office’s potential impact on improving outcomes at targeted schools. Nevertheless, these outcomes, when compared to turnaround-eligible schools that were not CTO partners last year are even more inspiring. The report will be available on the Turnaround Office’s website on January 15th.