

Essential Elements for Success

Instructional Leadership:

Principals develop strong relationships with teachers and students, spend time discussing issues with staff, monitor student and teacher performance, and research and lead innovations to improve student performance. Principals are in the classrooms and assisting teachers. Principals are creatively using resources to expand their school's instructional capacity.

Continuous Assessment and Immediate Intervention:

Working under the assumption that no student is allowed to fail, the staff is continually assessing students to determine their academic progress and providing immediate intervention to those who are struggling. School personnel continually use assessment data to drive their decision making and teachers pursue a variety of instructional strategies to ensure every student's success.

Collaboration and Common Planning:

Schools ensure that teachers are provided with time for collaborative planning and instruction within the grade level, across grades and interdepartmentally. Teachers work together, as well as with intervention specialists when appropriate, to analyze data, coordinate lessons and modify instruction to meet the needs of each student.

Professional Development:

Professional development is a high priority and is focused on improving student success. The majority of professional development in these schools is focused on aligning curriculum and instruction to the standards, and using assessment data to drive their decision making. Teachers keep up to date with the latest research and teaching methods, enabling them to make improvements to their teaching style and align instruction to the standards.

High Expectations and Student Awareness:

Educators hold and communicate high expectations for all of their students to succeed. Students are aware of the academic standards, and student success in meeting these standards is highly visible throughout the school.

Discipline:

Schools create clear discipline policies that reinforce good behavior and establish mutual respect between students and teachers. The discipline policies are understood by all students and consistently carried out by the entire staff.

Strong Partnerships with Parents:

Schools embrace a philosophy of partnership with the families and clearly communicate the responsibilities for a child's learning. Schools create programs that support families in their children's learning.