

A Common Vision of Great School Leadership

The Colorado Principal Quality Standards

Great principals take responsibility for the success of every student in their school. While classroom teachers are vital to the success of every child they teach, it is the principal who is responsible for providing high-quality education to all students in the school.

School leadership is a demanding role requiring principals and assistant principals to demonstrate numerous essential skills. Successful principals seek to consistently develop and improve in their role, just as they ask of their teachers and students.

Identifying the complex components of high-quality school leadership is a fundamental step in supporting principals' professional growth as well as developing a fair and reliable evaluation process (both aspects of the Great Teachers and Leaders Act). The statewide Principal Quality Standards provide this shared understanding of the essentials of great school leadership—a common vision.

Just as the Teacher Quality Standards outline the knowledge and skills required of an excellent teacher, the Principal Quality Standards outline the knowledge and skills required of an excellent principal. They are the core of the principal evaluation process and offer a tool for principal self-reflection, goal setting and ongoing professional growth.

The Principal Quality Standards are foundational to providing every student with what they deserve—excellent school leaders who are consistently supported in their efforts to improve in their profession, support their teachers' professional growth and influence student learning in new and powerful ways.



Effective principals are responsible for the collective success of their schools, including the learning, growth, and achievement of both students and staff.



COLORADO
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QUALITY STANDARD I

Principals demonstrate organizational leadership by strategically developing a vision and mission, leading change, enhancing the capacity of personnel, distributing resources, and aligning systems of communication for continuous school improvement.

ELEMENT A: Principals collaboratively develop the vision, mission, and strategic plan, based on a cycle of continuous improvement of student outcomes, and facilitate their integration into the school community.

ELEMENT B: Principals collaborate with staff and stakeholders to implement strategies for change to improve student outcomes.

ELEMENT C: Principals establish and effectively manage systems that ensure high-quality staff.

ELEMENT D: Principals establish systems and partnerships for managing all available school resources to facilitate improved student outcomes.

ELEMENT E: Principals facilitate the design and use of a variety of communication strategies with all stakeholders.

QUALITY STANDARD II

Principals demonstrate inclusive leadership practices that foster a positive school culture and promote safety and equity for all students, staff, and community.

ELEMENT A: Principals create a professional school environment and foster relationships that promote staff and student success and well-being.

ELEMENT B: Principals ensure that the school provides an orderly and supportive environment that fosters a sense of safety and well-being.

ELEMENT C: Principals commit to an inclusive and positive school environment that meets the needs of all students and

promotes the preparation of students to live productively and contribute to the diverse cultural contexts of a global society.

ELEMENT D: Principals create and utilize systems to share leadership and support collaborative efforts throughout the school.

ELEMENT E: Principals design and/or utilize structures and processes which result in family and community engagement and support.

QUALITY STANDARD III

Principals demonstrate instructional leadership by aligning curriculum, instruction and assessment, supporting professional learning, conducting observations, providing actionable feedback, and holding staff accountable for student outcomes.

ELEMENT A: Principals establish, align, and ensure implementation of a district/BOCES plan of instruction, instructional practice, assessments, and use of student data that result in academic growth and achievement for all students.

ELEMENT B: Principals foster a collaborative culture of job-embedded professional learning.

ELEMENT C: Principals demonstrate knowledge of effective instructional practice and provide feedback to promote continuous improvement of teaching and learning.

ELEMENT D: Principals hold all staff accountable for setting and achieving measurable student outcomes.

QUALITY STANDARD IV

Principals demonstrate professionalism through ethical conduct, reflection, and external leadership.

ELEMENT A: Principals demonstrate high standards for professional conduct.

ELEMENT B: Principals link professional growth to their professional goals.

ELEMENT C: Principals build and sustain productive partnerships with key community stakeholders, including public and private sectors, to promote school improvement, student learning, and student well-being.

These standards were approved by the Colorado State Board of Education for Use Beginning in 2019-20.