

## 4 elements of central office support of learning and leadership

Central office support for principals is a distinguishing characteristic of successful schools and districts. Research points to four factors that make up support. Reflect on how your district contributes to each of these factors. Use specific examples to explain the presence or lack of support. Use the questions on the next page to guide discussion with colleagues.

Factors	Degree of support in each area <i>(1 = low; 5 = high)</i>					Specific examples in practice
A cultural emphasis on keeping conversation and attention focused on learning.	1	2	3	4	5	
A connection between work in schools and district and state policy.	1	2	3	4	5	
An emphasis on effective use of data.	1	2	3	4	5	
A difference in how principals distribute leadership.	1	2	3	4	5	

## **Discussion points** for central office support of learning and leadership

**Review the indicators of support from the previous page with your colleagues, and use the questions below to guide discussion.**

In which area(s) is the support the strongest?

What are visible examples of how that support is manifested in day-to-day operations?

Who provides most of the support available to principals?

How does the structure of the district enhance or impede the availability of support?

In what areas are improvements needed?

What are some recommendations for making those improvements?

Of the recommendations suggested, which are the high-priority ones?

What actions are needed to enact the high-priority recommendations?