The Learning Principal:
Living Equity-centered
Leadership

Webinar November 18, 2021

If you can see the slide and hear the music, you are all set.



Welcome! We will begin shortly.

All attendees are muted upon entry.

Please use the chat feature for comments and questions during the webinar.



Let's get started

The webinar will be recorded and available.

All webinar registrants will receive a followup email that will include the webinar slide deck, recording, and other resources mentioned during the presentation.

Please introduce yourselves in the chat box

- Your name
- Your location
- Your role in the educational sector



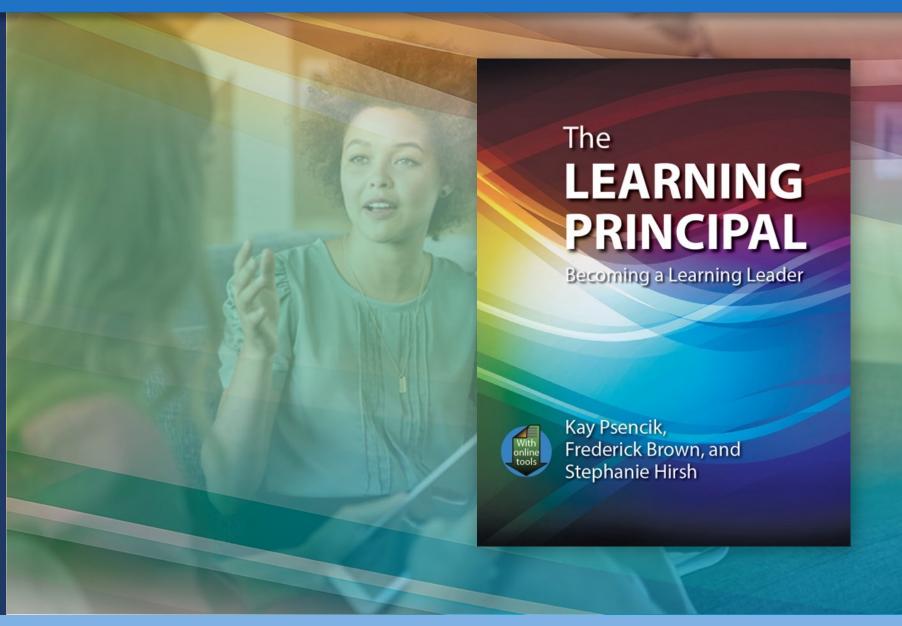
Thank you for joining us



Frederick Brown
Moderator

Chief Learning Officer/Deputy

Learning Forward



The Learning Principal









Participants will ...

Examine assumptions that influence equity-centered leadership

 Consider implications of research findings describing how principals affect students and schools

 Experience tools principals can use to strengthen learning teams and lead change

Your team for our webinar



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Santa Fe High School
Santa Fe, TX



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The strangest of times!

- We are living in unprecedented times;
- Principals are facing challenges like never before; and
- New leadership strategies are essential to raft furious white waters with high expectations, caring, and compassion.



Our structure for this webinar

- The case for a focus on principal leadership The Wallace Foundation-commissioned study, How Principals Affect Students and Schools;
- The attributes of a learning principal;
- The value of the book, *The Learning Principal: Becoming a Learning Leader*, to principals and those who support them;
- The stories of two principals from the book who have been on a learning journey themselves for a long time and have wonderful stories to tell; and
- Questions and answers.

The Learning Principal

Learning is the foundation for high-performing schools where all staff and students achieve and perform at high levels (p. xi).

Key concepts for our session*:

- Principals make the difference.
- Equity-centered leadership increases students' academic and social well-being.
- How you show up makes a difference in how you engage staff in their own learning.

*Colors make connections throughout the content.

Principals make the difference.

- Studies using new data and methods show that the importance of principals may not have been stated strongly enough in earlier work, given the magnitude and scope of their impacts on a range of outcomes;
- Evidence links four domains of behaviors to positive outcomes for students and schools — engaging in instructionally focused interactions with teachers, building a productive climate, facilitating collaboration and professional learning communities, and managing personnel and resources strategically;
- The principalship needs continued reorientation toward educational equity; and
- We need renewed attention to supporting a high-quality principal workforce.



RESEARCH REPORT

How Principals Affect Students and Schools

A Systematic Synthesis of Two Decades of Research

Jason A. Grissom VANDERBILT UNIVERS Anna J. Egalite
NORTH CAROLINA STAT

Constance A. Lindsay
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH
CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

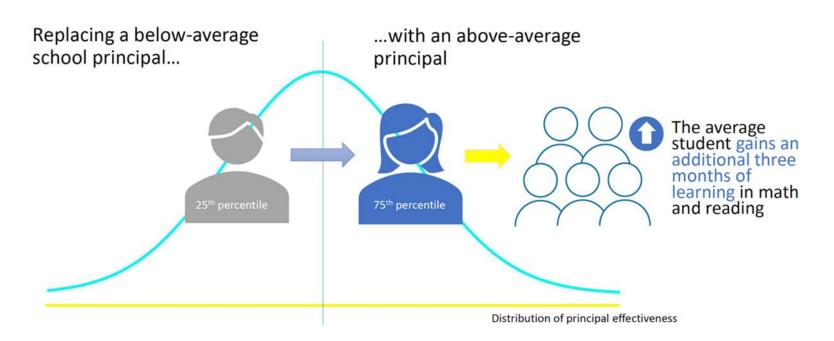
February 2021

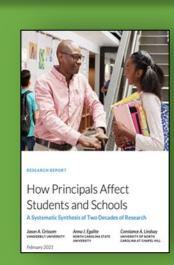
Making the case

After a review of six high-quality longitudinal studies involving more than 22,000 principals, the research team found the following:

 Increasing principal effectiveness by 1 standard deviation (SD) results in an achievement increase of 0.13 SD in math and 0.09 SD in reading.

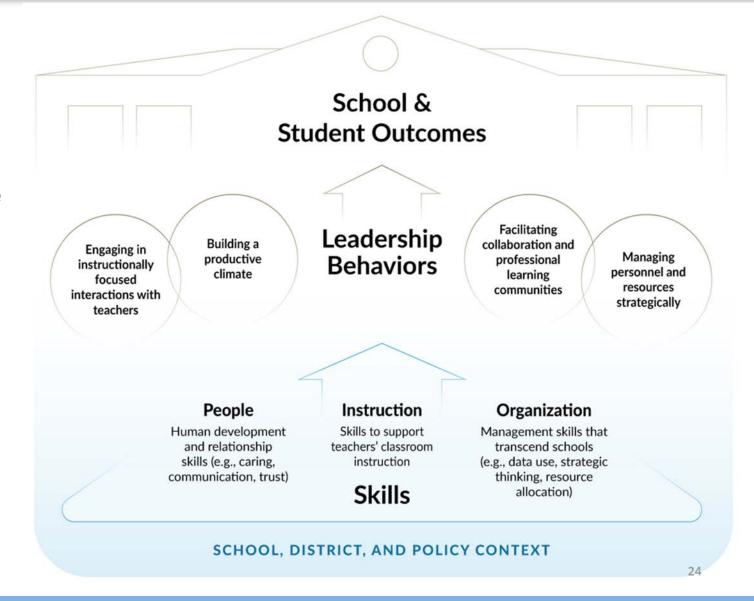
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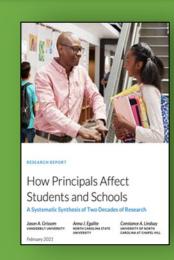




Making the case

Principals who consistently engage in these behaviors see more positive outcomes.





Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL)

Standard 3 (abridged)

The expectations for principal behaviors reflect these critical concepts:

- Effective educational leaders strive for equity of educational opportunity and culturally responsive practices to promote each student's academic success and well being.
- Principals ensure that all students are treated fairly, respected for their strengths, and recognized for their accomplishments and progress toward their goals.
- Effective principals are mindful of what is happening to all students in the school. They confront deficit-based thinking, build up marginalized students, and highlight each student's diversity and culture as assets.
- Effective principals ensure that every student has access to high-quality teaching every day.

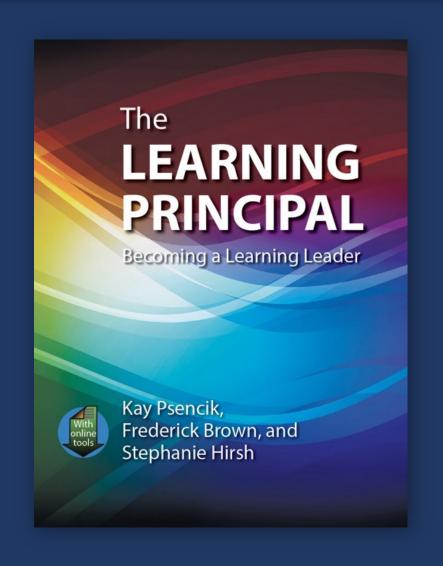
Equity-centered leadership increases students' academic and social well-being

"Educators are more likely to commit to change when they are led by a learning principal. They see they can take risks, make mistakes, and take on new challenges when their principal learns by their side. When learning leaders combine high expectations with high support and trust, next to nothing can stop them from achieving their goals." (p. 12)

Equity is foundational to high expectations for all

- Learning Forward defines equity as the outcome of educator practices that respect and nurture all aspects of student identity rather than treat them as barriers to learning. Professional learning is a critical lever to achieve equity;
- Effective professional learning removes inequities in students' access to meaningful learning, ensuring a pathway to success for each student. When all educators engage in high-quality professional learning, all students experience equity and excellence in teaching and learning.

The content of this book



The book provides big ideas, key actions, and tools to support and strengthen principals in their learning journey of being an equity-centered leader.

The structure of this book

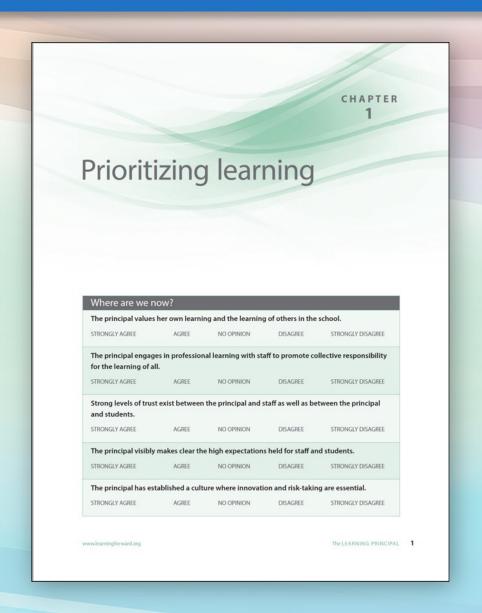


- Where Are We Now? The book gives principals reflective questions to think about what they are learning at the beginning and end of each chapter;
- Overview and Key Concepts: Each chapter highlights the research that supports the key ideas being established;
- *Taking Action*: Each chapter gives three to five strategies that principals can use to take action;
- **Principal Vignettes**: Each chapter shares a story of a principal applying the concepts and ideas in the chapter with their teams and staffs at their schools;
- Reflective Questions: Questions allow readers to pause and reflect on what they are learning;
- **Tools:** In addition, each chapter has a set of practical tools that may be used as is or modified to meet the needs of staff to ensure the desired outcomes.

For example —

Let's experience part of Chapter 1:

Prioritizing Learning



Where are we now?

Take a few seconds to give yourself a rating on the 2 prompts below. Be thoughtful about your justification for your rating on the scale.

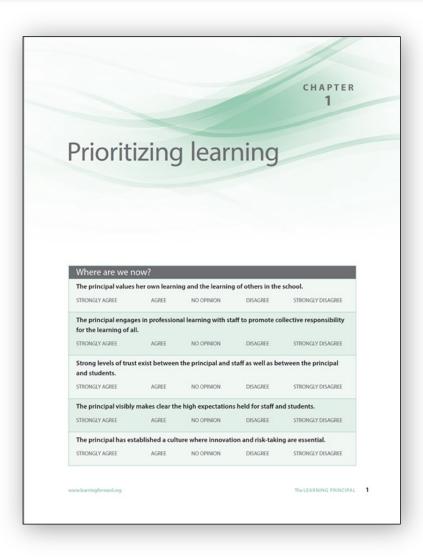
 The principal engages in professional learning with staff to promote collective responsibility for the learning of all:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

 The principal has established a culture where innovation and risk-taking are essential:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- No Opinion
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Overview and key concepts



The key ideas discussed in Chapter 1 are:

- Expectations drive results;
- Learning is the norm —
 every educator learns every day; and
- Trust builds courage.

Expectations drive results

Learning principals create a culture of high expectations, support, and caring:

- They recognize that the hard work required demands their attention to relationships among staff and between staff and students;
- When principals create a culture of inclusion, learning, and joy, everyone in the school thrives; and
- Learning principals attract and hire teachers who view continual learning as a professional obligation.

Every educator learns every day

Fundamental to achieving equity and excellence is a commitment to continuous learning.

- Learning principals:
 - Lead learning schools;
 - Believe the core work of learning teams is anchored in thoughtful collaborative use of high-quality instructional materials; and
 - Maximize the talent in their schools and individual learning teams; they support leadership development among educators at every level.

Trust builds courage

Trust is a key element if learning is to result in substantive change.

- Trusted principals:
 - Build trust when they are open and vulnerable while holding expectations high;
 - Are viewed as honest, fair, and consistent in their transactions and relationships;
 - Continuously create conditions that result in teams' exploring new research, innovations, and strategies; and
 - Encourage and celebrate risk-taking, sharing instructional practices, modeling, co-teaching, and observing each other.

Chapter 1: Taking action

CHAPTER Prioritizing learning CHAPTER 1

> leaders remember that their thoughts, attitudes, and actions are self-fulfilling proficiencies. When they lead with positive self-expectancy, confidence, optimism. and just plain faith, they can expect wins and can do and say. lead through the challenges. An effective football coach once told us, "When you feel like you have hit the wall and you do not see your way out, when you are exhausted and going into survival mode, lift up your head, lift your energy, and pick up the pace. It's your choice!" The principal has the responsibility to carry through and finish strong. When staff members view the principal as a finisher --- someone of character with high expectations of them - they are confident that the principal can be trusted to work with them through any challenges to create positive teaching and learning conditions for all students and staff.

Taking action

Principals who are intentional about making learning the priority for their schools are careful in how they choose to spend their time each day. They choose actions and words that demonstrate their commitment to learning for all. The following actions are helpful to principals seeking to strengthen and amplify this responsibility.

1. Run a self-check every morning

Given the importance of the learning principal's commitment to learning, high expectations, and a thriving culture, how she shows up each day sets the tone for the school. Learning principals ask, "What attitude am I bringing with me to school today? What impact will that attitude have on the work of others and the success of students?" Checking ourselves with a whole-body and mindset scan makes a difference.

Stephen M. R. Covey (2008) writes that effective | Principals have control over the attitude they bring to school every day and they are under constant observation. What principals do, how they do it, and what they say all matter in terms of what others

> Co-author Psencik recalled a friend's observations in doctors' waiting rooms: "When the doctor is not in the office, things run fine - everyone is very professional, but there is a low energy level among the staff. When the doctor walks in the front door, energy is noticeably higher. People are laughing, they begin moving just a little faster, there is a lift in their voices as they joke with each other. It is amazing what a difference one person can make in the attitudes and energies of those around them!" Principals have the same impact. When principals show up exhibiting no energy, feeling tired, holding a negative attitude about themselves and the world in which they live, they can expect to see similar

> Check yourself. Ask, "What does my attitude body, and language today model for others? What are my expectations of myself today? How will my energy level show that? What is the mood I want to project for others? If I am in a mood of anger or frustration. how will others treat each other and the students we serve? If I am in a mood of optimism and hope, will it be strong enough to be infectious? How can I turn myself around to best serve others?"

> Robert Kegan and Lisa Lahey (2001) remind us that without this self-assessment, it may be nearly impossible for us to brine about the changes we desire

If we say, "I haven't the time for all this soulsearching. Let's just jump in, get into action, and we'll work out the problems as we come upon them," it's easy to predict that we will end up puzzled as to why such good intentions led to such disappointing results. (p. 63)

6 The LEARNING PRINCIPAL

Run a self-check every morning: How will my staff and students view me today?

- Be the model of professional learning you want others to be;
- Be the guardian of learning teams;
- Learn from students; and
- Commit to trust-based culture.

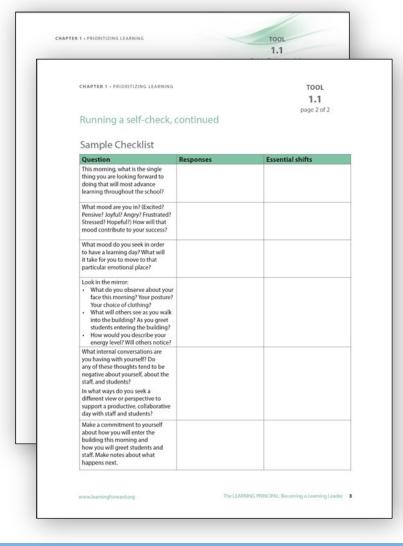
Run a self-check every morning

- Learning principals ask, "What attitude am I bringing with me to school today? What impact will that attitude have on the work of others and the success of students?"
- What principals say and do everyday when they come to school make a significant difference in how others perform.



Tool 1.1: The self-check

Take a few minutes right now to run this self-check.



Check yourself. Ask:

- 1. What does my attitude, body, and language today model for others? (Look in the mirror.)
- 2. What are my expectations for myself today?
- 3. How is my energy level showing that?
- 4. What is the mood I want to project for others?
- 5. If I'm in a mood of anger or frustration, how will others treat one another and the students we serve?
- 6. If I'm in a mood of optimism and hope, will it be strong enough to be infectious?

7. How can I best serve others?

Chapter 1 tools

Tool	Title	Use
1.1	Running a Daily Self-check	This tool is a self-assessment for leaders to pause and determine how they want to present themselves.
1.2	Forming an Equity Mindset for Learning	This tool includes resources that principals and leadership teams can use for holding equity-focused conversations and planning sessions within school communities.
1.3	Supporting Learning Teams	This process helps principals facilitate discussions with leadership teams so they can identify opportunities for strengthening their approach to teaching and learning.
1.4	Listening to Students	This tool gives principals and leadership teams a process for learning about and practicing strategies for engaging with students to address issues at the school.

Two leaders who lead a learning leader journey

Azra Redzic and **Rachel Harris**, both featured in *The Learning Principal*, have been leaders of learning schools.

- Azra was principal of Sanchez Elementary in Hartford, CT.
 She is currently humanities supervisor, Bristol Public
 Schools in Bristol, CT.
- Rachel Harris is principal of Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, TX.

Each has a story to share with us about the power of being a learning leader.

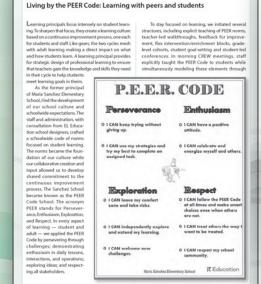
The principal vignette

Azra, principal Sanchez Elementary School, Hartford Public Schools, Hartford CT

Living by the PEER Code:

Learning with peers and students

Perseverance, Enthusiasm, Exploration, and Respect.





student and personalized adult learning opportunities. The PEER Code/CREW philosophy, which was

deeply ingrained in the staff, gave rise to a con-

munity in which staff embraced all students and

taught them outside their own class and grade level Teacher teams created grade-level cohorts to manage

this practice.

"Learning principals focus intensely on student learning. To sharpen that focus they create a learning culture based on a continuous improvement process, one each for students and staff. Like gears, the two cycles mesh with adult learning, making a direct impact on what and how students learn."



When a learning principal instills a growth mindset in adults and students, leadership matters. A leader who is a lifelong learner sets the stage for professional learning and classroom improvement and makes continual refinement visible in every aspect of her practice. Learning principals approach every situation as learners; they constantly reflect on their practice, network, and learn from others. By taking a learning mindset, learning principals create opportunities for continuous improvement that directly affects staff and student cultures.

— Azra Redzic, former principal (Hartford, CT)

Culture of Learning

- Continuous improvement process for students and staff;
- Taking ownership of own learning (leadership, staff, and students);
- Build capacity and empower others to achieve more than they thought possible; and
- Innovative structures to accelerate learning for staff (teacher-led walkthroughs and flex blocks).



Rachel Harris
Principal
Santa Fe High School



Being a learning principal means that I have the opportunity to learn with other principals and participate in a professional learning community. This activity not only keeps me in the continuous improvement cycle with my own practice but also includes others' practices within my school. Working in community with my peers allows me to try out new learning designs and protocols before implementing them. As a learning principal, I know that I am vulnerable in front of staff, so I embrace that vulnerability to show teachers my efforts to improve my practice. I am a learner and I have high expectations for teachers and myself to learn and grow.

Role of principal as curriculum leader

- If the principal does not have a very clear hand on leading the curriculum, assessments, and instruction, teachers can fragment and move off target;
- Teachers must have ownership even in purchased curriculum materials; and
- Teachers must supplement and modify in order to meet the needs of each class and every student.



What a day can feel like for a principal... emails Analyzing Assessments
Observations Parent Complaints
Mentoring Discipline Playground Duty Allocating Resources Ensuring Rigor PLC Collaboration Professional Learning Coaching District Meetings
Budgeting Cafeteria Duty

How do you focus with so much going on or after a tragedy?

School Shooting: 2018

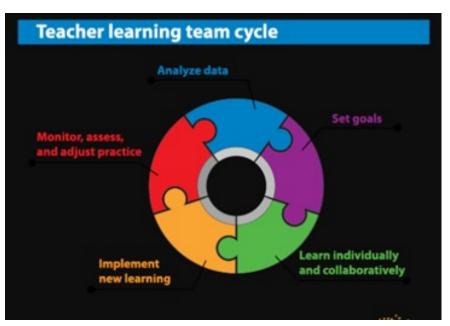
• COVID: 2020

- Needed a clear focus
- Tools in this book are game changers for focusing a staff on instruction and <u>through</u> any situation.



What did we do in both cases?

Cycle of Continuous Improvement



- But how?
 - Principals needs tools and a clear focus for their discussions;
 - This book provides key tools to guide a principal in focusing their teams.

Short cycles

-			2520					
Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5				
Analyze Data	Identify Barriers & Plan	Plan Instruction	Implement Instruction	Analysis of student Work				
Date:	Assessments	Date:	Date:	Date:				
	Date:	300000000000000000000000000000000000000						
Finalize Student Goal	Ensure we have a good	What do we need to learn	Implement Instruction &	Analyze student Data				
Setting Form Learning	solid assessments.	in order to teach this to	Begin identifying the next	from SBA or UBA reflect				
Design #1.	 Use Peeling Back 	the level we need to?	goal for the following SBA	on goal. Use student				
 Create Smart Goal 	the Layers	Who is responsible for	or UBA	work samples and				
on SBA or Unit	Learning Design#2	what by next week?		coaching information to				
Based Assessment	Orfor UBA	 Use Learning 		decide on improvements.				
 Use the KASAB 	 Learning Design 5: 	Design #9:		 Modify Learning 				
Method to	Writing reliable,	Designing		Design #13 Tuning				
identify Barriers	Valid Tests	Effective Aligned		protocol				
	0.400-404-60000	Lessons						
Evidence or Discussion Notes								

- Professional learning tied directly to the short learning cycles:
 - Advocate for high-quality instruction
 - Know the curriculum
 - Promote understanding: The "Why"
 - Make learning accessible for all
 - Monitor relentlessly.

Close examination of the tool

Stage 1 Analyze Data Date:	Stage 2 Identify Barriers & Plan Assessments Date:	Stage 3 Plan Instruction Date:	Stage 4 Implement Instruction Date:	Stage 5 Analysis of student Work Date:			
Finalize Student Goal Setting Form Learning Design #1. • Create Smart Goal on SBA or Unit Based Assessment • Use the KASAB Method to identify Barriers	Ensure we have a good solid assessments. • Use Peeling Back the Layers Learning Design#2 Orfor UBA • Learning Design 5: Writing reliable, Valid Tests	What do we need to learn in order to teach this to the level we need to? Who is responsible for what by next week? • Use Learning Design #9: Designing Effective Aligned Lessons	Implement Instruction & Begin identifying the next goal for the following SBA or UBA	Analyze student Data from SBA or UBA reflect on goal. Use student work samples and coaching information to decide on improvements. • Modify Learning Design #13 Tuning protocol			
Evidence or Discussion Notes							

Protocol for continuing with the work

In order to use this <u>protocol</u> it is assumed that the participants <u>know</u> <u>and understand the COCI</u>. It is also assumed that this protocol would be used with at least two people <u>(Coach and Admin)</u> to determine and coach each other to the best learning for the team. In addition, the leadership team needs to have all the vetted Learning designs available for SFISD in one location and categorized.



Step1: Identify the Learning Needs

- Use the questions below to determine an overall learning focus or need? Spend time discussing
 and coaching each other on what is the most important learning need of the team based on
 their struggles. These are only example questions.
 - O Where is the team in planning or breaking down of curriculum?
 - o What data is problematic?
 - What type of learning that is needed for all the teachers or teacher with <u>deficits</u>.
 - Where do they fall on the IC Map and how does it reflect in student data?
 - o Do teachers know what success looks like?
 - Do teachers know how to monitor and assess the learning?
 - o Are there areas that need to be re-taught?
 - How are personalities affecting this group or is there some kind of drama between them?

Reflective questions

In the chat, please respond to one of these two questions:

 How do I demonstrate my intentional focus on learning for myself as well as for others?

 Can my teams clearly articulate the value of team learning and how it supports improved results for students?

Discussion and Questions



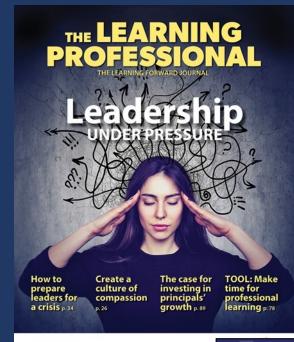
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https://www.surveymonkey.de/r/NBZ6229

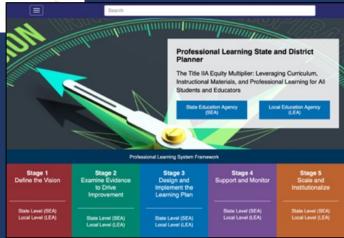
Online resources

Look for follow-up resources, including a recording of this webinar and slides

- Read latest issue of <u>The Learning Professional</u>
- Check out the Learning Forward blog
- Use the planner at
 <u>Professional Learning State</u>
 <u>and District Planner</u>







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THE LEARNING

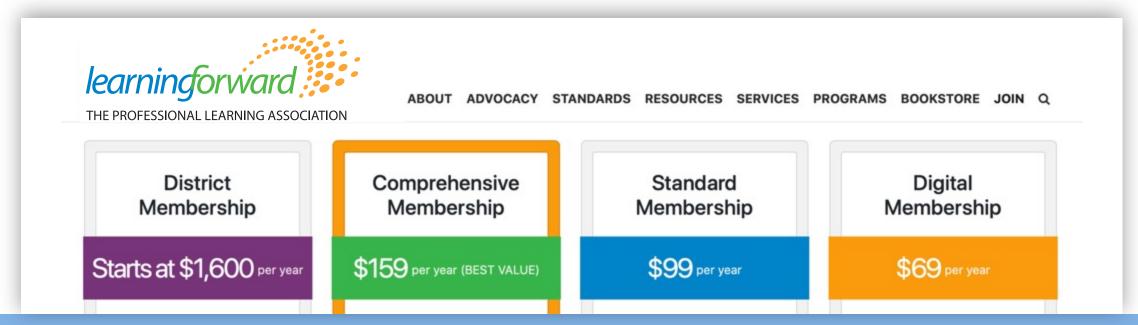
The June 2021 issue of The Learning Professional examines how to foster racial equity in schools, featuring field leaders' voices, strategies for action, and new tools.



- Coaching and cross-district networks to build racial equity
- Diversifying the educator workforce
- Culturally responsive curriculum and instructional
- District, state, and agency strategies for equity

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Thank you!

