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EAD 801

High School Teacher/Coach

### Final Paper

In EAD 801 the most important lesson I learned was the value of high expectations. As a current teacher and coach having defined objectives is a key for success. In the future I plan on transitioning into educational administration. The ISLLC standards provide an excellent model for effective administration. These guidelines successfully show how to educate students in all circumstances. The six leadership policies provide consistent as well as proven strategies in the field of education. Also the principles are grounded in ethics which is essential in educational leadership. Currently as a teacher following these standards provides an accountability system for my treatment of students. Equally important for my future role in administration the standards will be the driving force behind my actions. The ISLLC standards are the perfect criteria for my success in all levels of education. The following is a summarization of how the standards apply in my educational career.

Standard one from the (The National Policy Board for Educational Administration, 2007) states an education leader promotes the success of every student by facilitating the development, articulation, implementation, and stewardship of a vision of learning that is shared and supported by all stakeholders. As a future administrator I must develop a vision. This vision must be one that excites all members of the school into following my plan of action. A key component as stated above is the development

of this vision. My vision must begin forming now by learning from my experiences in the classroom. The best way of forming this vision is through listening to the perspectives of others in the school. This way I will better understand the needs of the entire school not just my own perspectives. Notice standard one states facilitates not command. I must allow consensus decision making to occur throughout out my administration. Another important aspect of fulfilling standard 1 is effective communication. All expectations within a school as well as classroom must be clearly understood. Lastly as leader the vision for the school must be implemented slowly and ceaselessly emphasized. By setting the course with the ideas of others involved the likelihood for administrative success is much greater.

Standard two according to the (NPBEA 2007) is an education leader promotes the success of every student by advocating, nurturing, and sustaining a school culture and instructional program conducive to student learning and staff professional growth. As an administrator I must observe and critique my teachers. The only way teachers will improve is through learning their strong points and improving their weaknesses. A great school culture starts in the classroom with excellent student to teacher interaction. Furthermore all programs must put students first and faculty second. Schools exist for student success in learning and extracurriculars. Too many times schools focus on extracurriculars and neglect those struggling in academics. If this is the case a good answer is after school tutoring programs or more accountability in monitoring student's progress. This will require extra effort from faculty but as long as the needs for students are met everything else will fall into place.

A major way to help faculty grow is through excellent professional development. As a teacher I now realize I need to take advantage of more opportunities. However I think it would really help if administrators made concerted efforts at improving both the quality and quantity of these activities. One of the best ways educational instruction is improved is efficient use of technology. Many schools have technology but do not maximize its potential. By training teachers in this area new possibilities for connecting with students are opened.

Although many responsibilities are not solely the administrations, the school culture must be set by the front office. An administrator must ensure the school curriculum is strong, relevant, and well taught. When seeing any part of the school culture out of line the administrator must swiftly act in correcting it. People rise and fall based on expectations. As an administrator I must daily exemplify excellence through leadership in action. Overtime as others see my commitment they will trust, honor, and respect my own decisions.

Standard 3 from the (NPBEA, 2007) exclaims an education leader promotes the success of every student by ensuring management of the organization, operation, and resources for a safe, efficient, and effective learning environment. Without organization as both a teacher and administrator I cannot sufficiently complete my job. Schools as well as individuals must have well run schedules. A strong school schedule keeps both pupils and teachers alike engaged throughout the day. Another side of organization is clean facilities. The appearance of a school sets the tone for all the inhabitants. The facilities clean up crew are just as important as any other part of educational climate.

In my opinion an essential requirement of a great school is frugal financial management. As administrator I must control ensure no wasteful expenditures occur. The ground work for this is a good starting plan or budget. If the administration allows unaccounted for spending then the school financial future will spiral out of control. The saying I have always heard is if it doesn't make cents then it doesn't make sense. Also planning on facilities improvements and upgrades is an important part of leadership. Leaders must effectively use resources in advancing an institution into higher ground.

As a teacher today I think the biggest issue affecting schools is safety. School leaders must make this a major priority. Plans of action in the case of emergency must be practiced, understood, and taken seriously. A proactive stance must be taken on issues of dress code, weapons, and parking lot security. Any threats, suspicious notes, or blatant misbehavior must be addressed by the administration in an aggressive manner. All members of a school must feel safe and secure in their daily environment.

Distributed leadership is essential for all of the roles and responsibilities necessary for a school to effectively function. Leaders cannot micromanage and do everything his/her self. Leaders must surround themselves first with dependable assistants and office staff. Secondly every teacher hire is critical because that is where the daily battles are won and lost. Responsibilities must be delegated for trustworthy people. If a leader tries micromanaging then no stakeholder will be happy in their working relationship. Employees want not only to have say so in organizational policies but enact their own ideas. Leadership is not what a leader does but what he empowers other leaders to do.

Policy number five from (NPBEA, 2007) proclaims an education leader promotes the success of every student by collaborating with faculty and community members, responding to diverse community interests and needs, and mobilizing community resources. As a teacher I must get to know my students so I can understand their needs. Every child possesses their own individual characteristics. Through knowing their differences I can develop more effective teaching strategies. Similarly every school has their own specific interests and desires. As an administrator I must base plans specifically around what works for my school. Not what necessarily is effective other places.

In my opinion the most underrated part of running a great school is community involvement. The schools with the strongest community support are more than likely the best schools. Strong pride is developed through involving community members in activities. Getting as many alumni as possible on campus for events and fundraising is essential. Through involving the community citizens will be more likely to donate their time and resources. However this can only occur if administrators have programs that people are interested in participating. Ideally students walk away from school realizing how important the leadership and faculty were in their development. This feeling of gratitude will hopefully continue on into their adult career within the community. By focusing on meeting students needs a life long relationship is built between institution and individual.

Another vital part of the community is parents. Teachers and administrators alike must focus on parental involvement and communication. Rallying as much parental support as possible around students is a necessity for the successful maturation of

students. By making parents feel part of the school community instead of an outsider all interactions will be more positive for all parties involved. Many parents want to know what is going on in their children's life but simply do not know how to access the information.

Standard 5 (NPBEA, 2007) reads an education leader promotes the success of every student by acting with integrity, fairness, and in an ethical manner. For me this is the most important standard or principle in my life. If I cannot be an honest person then I need to get another job. My integrity as a teacher is very important. Many times individuals only work hard when the boss is looking. Then when alone they slack off and do not perform at an optimal level. What I do when no one else knows about it is what makes me who I am. Everyone in life is looking for authenticity especially in leadership. By acting one way in public and another in private is living a life which is a direct conflict with what leadership stands for. Fairness is a tough job in both my roles as a teacher and coach. Whether we admit it we have favorites. Importantly this is not the problem as long as we treat everyone the same. In sports the only fair way I know to coach is by playing the best players. Regardless of whom their dad is or how much money their family has given. As an administrator a challenge in fairness is discipline. A major question in discipline is should problems be handle on a case by case basis or with blanket policies. The fastest way to lose respect is for leaders to start giving different people separate punishments. If everyone understands the rules and consequences they will be less likely to break them.

Ethics are a part of all decisions and all roles in education. Personally I think American culture as well as schools today are growing void of moral decisions. Way to

many sexual and abuse claims are developing between student and teacher. Also with the drastic rise in teen pregnancy and school drop out ethics are not being emphasized enough in the classroom. Although much of the moral responsibility exists in the home schools cannot neglect this factor. Therefore administrators must promote and embody this behavior in their own life and in the school culture. Without ethics no organization or school has a core set of values to reflect back on during decision making. Without a core set of values individuals and schools alike will develop an identity crises. This crisis will result in failure to educate students at the highest possible level.

An education leader promotes the success of every student by understanding, responding to, and influencing the political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context. When I am an administrator I most definitely will involve myself in the politics in education. As a school leader I must at least voice my concerns on topics affecting student learning. Along the same token I feel strongly that schools should promote being active in American Political process. Good citizenship is disappearing in America and schools need to do as much as possible to prevent this from happening. Culturally leaders must always be aware of trends and changes. What is promoted on television is what will begin occurring in schools. Therefore strategies and policies must be in place to counteract those harmful in the school. Facebook is a prime example of a cultural trend greatly affecting schools. Communication within the school day as well as outside of school is very prevalent. Cell phones with cameras allow students to put photos online instantly. If these photos are taken during school problems can present themselves. Schools must do everything within their power in preventing cell phones from distracting students.

My life as a teacher and administrator is forever changed from taking EAD 801. The ISLLC standards have given me the keys for a successful career. I now understand the importance of having a shared vision for my leadership both in the classroom and main office. More importantly I understand how to develop this vision into one encompassing the desires of all stakeholders. Additionally I realize the significance of focusing all educational actions around students. Every ISLLC standard states the success of all students. This is my main job as a teacher and administrator. However in this process faculty development is still very important and area needing drastic improvement in all school settings. Furthermore as a teacher or leader organizational management is key. An administrator I must efficiently manage finances and school resources. If the school falls on hard financial times then it is my fault. I now more than ever see how valuable community support is in a successful school. Administrators must find ways of involving the community in school activities so they will remain part of the school. Hopefully through running a good school and gaining support community resources will be readily available. Through all things a leader must remain true to themselves and their principles. As Benjamin Franklin states honesty is always the best policy. As a leader now and in the future I know I will make tough decisions that will not always be popular. However as this class has shown leaders must do things others are unwilling to do. As I go through life this class will definitely be a tool that shaped me into being the best leader I can possibly become. Although I am still a work in progress without this class my whole perspective of leadership would be shallow. Thank you for showing me new types of leaders but more importantly new ways to lead.



Source Page

The National Policy Board for Educational Administration (2007) *Educational Leadership Policy Standards ISLLC 2008* 8/1/2009 from [www.ccsso.org/publications/details.cfm](http://www.ccsso.org/publications/details.cfm)