ISLLC Standards

The Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Standards define effective leadership. There are six standards. Standard I 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.” I have worked with my principal at two different schools now. She was my assistant principal at Ridgecrest ES. She is the principal at Calverton ES. Her vision is clear to me. However, it does not seem as though she has developed a vision with the staff at Calverton. The staff cannot support a vision that they did not help develop or at least have communicated to them. Lack of shared vision has created dissonance between the Leadership Team and among the staff. As an administrator, I plan to develop the school vision with the School Planning and Management Team (SPMT). I think that is the best way to include the most stakeholders.

Standard II states, “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.” Calverton ES has many strong teachers and a lot of excellent instruction occurring. My principal is focused on the success of every student. Collaborative planning, learning walks, informal observations, and Leadership Team meetings are utilized to monitor and guide instruction. Our current challenge is that many teachers do not see the value of professional development (PD). They do not want to leave their classrooms during the instructional day to attend PD. They do not want to attend afterschool sessions. As an administrator, I anticipate encountering the same problem. I believe you have to continue to offer the opportunities for PD to staff and develop the teacher leaders that are willing to invest their time. I am also pondering the idea of a summer institute for staff. Once I know my staff and their needs, I could plan a three to four day summer institute to implement PD that would impact the following school year.

Standard III states, “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.” During my teaching career in Prince George’s County, I have had six principals. One of my principals focused solely on the management of the school and as a result he failed as an administrator. The lesson I learned under his leadership is that administrators must balance the management of the school with the role of instructional leader. Effective management can have a positive impact on student learning. Understanding your organization enables you to shape your school culture.

Standard IV states, “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.” My current principal is a good role model in the area of collaborating with faculty and community members. We are currently making budget decisions for the 2013-1014 school year. My principal has been very transparent during the process. We have discussed spending decisions at Leadership Team meetings and during School Planning and Management meetings. There is a budget forum scheduled for parents this week. As an administrator, I would like to demonstrate the same level of collaboration with faculty and community members. My principal has coffee with the administrator each month and holds topical parent awareness meetings monthly. An essential element in her success is the parent
liaison. Our school has a large ESOL population. Without a parent liaison there would be a huge gap in communication.

Standard V states, “An education leader promotes the success of every student by acting with integrity, fairness, and in an ethical manner.” A leader’s ability to act with integrity, fairness and in an ethical manner is essential to the culture of the school. The success of an organization hinges on trust.

Standard VI states, “An education leader promotes the success of every student by understanding, responding to, and influencing the political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context.” An effective educational leader must be able to navigate the environment in which their organization exists if their organization is going to thrive. I believe that standard VI is the greatest challenge for new leaders.

NCATE Standards

The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) has developed professional standards for teacher preparation programs. NCATE has established six standards. The first standard states that candidates will demonstrate the “knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions” necessary to be an effective educator. The majority of our Educational Leadership program has been rigorous and thorough.

The second standard states that the teacher preparation program will implement an “assessment system and unit evaluation”. Bowie State University has implemented Task Stream as part of their assessment system. Educational Leadership candidates are required to create a portfolio of our experiences. The third standard requires the institution to provide “field experience and clinical practice”. As part of our program, we have completed a Practicum I experience and a Practicum II experience.

The fourth standard requires the institution to prepare candidates in the area of cultural competency and to provide candidates with experiences working with diverse populations. As part of our educational experience, consultants train our cohort on various topics. We have had trainings on cultural competency, sexual harassment, bullying, and instructional leadership. As educators in Prince George’s County, we work with diverse populations on a daily basis.

The fifth standard states that institutions will provide faculty that are qualified and model best professional practices. I have been gained a great deal of knowledge from Dr. Newsome, Dr. Wimberly, Dr. White, and Dr. Parker. They are highly qualified educators that have modeled best professional practices.

The sixth standard states the institution will provide “leadership, authority, budget, personnel, facilities, and resources, including information technology resources, for the preparation of candidates to meet professional, state, and institutional standards”.

Web Sources

www.ncate.org

http://www.cesso.org