



ACTIVITY 1.2

Embracing the Vision of a Standards-Based School

PURPOSE

Embracing the vision of a standards-based school might be difficult for some, both staff members and others in the community. In most adults' student experience, moving to the next grade was based on seat time and doing passing work on tests and activities in the subject areas. In a standards-based school, student success is contingent on mastering a set of standards that progress through the grades until students reach mastery on the standards for graduation in various content areas. In this activity, leaders consider what it will take to help all members of the school system adopt a universal vision of standards-based schooling.

TIME

30 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

Materials to record the discussion

SUGGESTED ROOM SETUP

Tables and chairs for easy discussion among participants

DIRECTIONS

As leaders, determine what talking points to share with teachers, parents, and the community to help them understand what a standards-based school is and what it means for the students who attend it, for the adults who work in it, and for the parents and the community who support it. Considering the following questions will assist you:

- What is a standards-based school, and how is it the same and different from the schools of our past?
- If mastery of the standards that progress to graduation is necessary for our students, what implications does this have for the following:
 - The written curriculum that is developed
 - The use of the written curriculum in the classrooms
 - The assessments that are developed and used
 - The instruction used with students
 - Reporting and grading students' learning
 - Hiring new teachers
 - Evaluating teaching
 - Determining needed professional development
 - Determining when a student progresses to the next level of standards
 - The assistance provided to students who have difficulty progressing

- Noting the implications, what beliefs that people currently have about their schools will have to be addressed?
- Noting the implications, what professional development, new learning, or other processes will be necessary to embrace this new vision of a standards-based school?
 - By the students
 - By the teachers
 - By the parents
 - By the community
 - By you as leaders