Strong & Engaged Site Leadership

SWIFT In Sixty DISCUSSION Guide
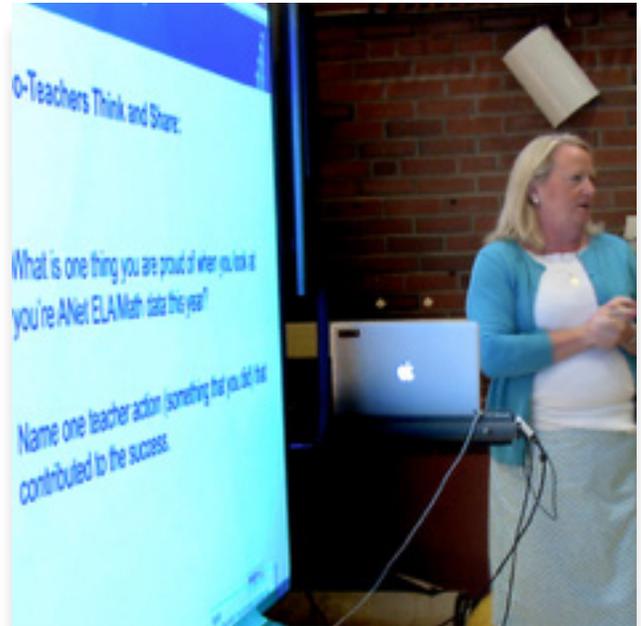
Before You Watch

▶ **Discussion Questions**

1. What should be the role of a principal?

2. What is the purpose of our school leadership team?

3. How does our school leadership team represent our entire school community, including families?

4. At our school, how are instructional decisions made? By whom?

5. Discuss an example of a time when you felt valued as a decision maker. In that scenario, did someone in a leadership role make you feel empowered? If so, how?

▶ **Group Activity**

Work in a group to create or update an agenda template for our school's leadership team meetings. Consider the following:

a. What types of topics should be covered?

b. How will the team collect input from stakeholders (e.g., families, teachers, students)?

c. How will the team share information with stakeholders (e.g., families, teachers, students)?

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While You Watch

▶ Discussion Questions

1. Share two noteworthy moments related to strong and engaged site leadership from the video.

2. In what ways does our school currently provide opportunities for everyone to participate in decision-making processes?

3. At the 0:40 mark, we see school teams reviewing data. In comparison, how does our school leadership team currently use data to...

   a. monitor student progress?

   b. provide feedback to teachers?

   c. improve teaching and learning?

4. At the 1:24 mark, we see a principal greeting family members in the school car-rider line. In comparison, what are some ways our school leaders engage with family and community members?

▶ Group Activity

Brainstorm five strategies school leadership can use to create a more "open door" environment.

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

A Strong and Engaged Site Leadership is the foundation for transforming systems throughout a school. With a shared mission and vision, school leaders create a forum for everyone to participate in the decision-making process. As the instructional leader, the principal uses data to monitor student progress and provide meaningful feedback to teachers. The principal and a leadership team promote practices to improve teaching and learning, such as collaborative teaching and flexible student grouping. The leadership team includes more than just the school's principal and assistant principal, but also teachers, staff, students, families and community members. School leaders have an "open door" policy and are comfortable bringing ideas, issues and concerns to the table. Strong leaders do more than just say family members are welcome, but ensure that family members know their views are valued and incorporated into decisions. School leaders are actively involved in the community and promote the school as a resource for everyone. Strong and Engaged Site Leadership empowers the entire faculty to support student success.

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After You Watch

▶ Discussion Questions

1. What opportunities exist for everyone in our school community to meaningfully participate in school decision-making processes?

2. What could help facilitate our leadership team's use of data?

3. Who are additional people we should include on our school leadership team to ensure it is representative of our community?

4. Identify ways the following groups of people currently contribute to school decisions and additional ways they might contribute:

   a. Teacher

   b. Parent/Family

   c. Support Staff

   d. Community Member

   e. Student

5. How do our mission/vision statement(s) guide our work?

▶ Group Activity

Design a process for our leadership team to solicit feedback from our stakeholders. Refer to question #4.