

Conditions in the School District...

that support implementation of the Standards-Based Education Teaching/Learning Cycle

Introduction

The *Standards-Based Teaching/Learning Cycle* provides a comprehensive description of standards-based educational practices. In order for districts and schools to fully implement standards-based education, they must generate supportive, systemic conditions that ensure standards-based practices can be sustained over time. Unless such systemic conditions are in place, the vision of educating all students to high levels cannot be realized.

Conditions in the School District is designed to identify the systemic conditions that are in place and those still needed to support implementing and sustaining standards-based education practices. This tool is derived from the Colorado Department of Education's standards and indicators in the Comprehensive Appraisal for District Improvement (CADI) and School Support Team (SST) reviews along with data from nearly 200 schools and districts that participated in these reviews.

On the following pages, examples of conditions are identified for each of the 11 categories listed below. Under each category and related examples, space is available for district staff to identify additional conditions that are important at the district, school, classroom, and student level to sustain standards-based practices.

1. Curriculum
2. Assessment and Evaluation
3. Instruction
4. District Culture/Learning Environment
5. Student, Family, and Community Support
6. Professional Growth
7. Personnel Policies
8. Leadership
9. Resource Allocation and Budgeting
10. Comprehensive and Effective Planning
11. Other Conditions

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1. Curriculum

- The district adopts a guaranteed and viable curriculum that is rigorous and aligned with Colorado's Academic Standards.
- Training and coaching are provided to ensure staff understand and implement the district's curriculum.
- District curriculum is routinely and systematically reviewed.
- District policies ensure the curriculum is rigorously and consistently delivered in all classrooms.
- The district monitors implementation of the curriculum.

*Other conditions related to our district's **Curriculum** that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

2. Assessment and Evaluation

- District policies define expectations for the development and use of assessments at the district and school level.
- The district understands and supports schools in using all types of assessments to guide instruction, particularly formative assessment practices, at the classroom, team, and department level.
- Collaborative processes are in place to develop or select high-quality interim and summative assessments.
- Training and support are provided to staff to understand, use, and interpret all types of assessments.

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*Other conditions related to our district's **Assessment Practices** that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

3. Instruction

- The district identifies researched-based instructional strategies and develops a district instructional framework that guides instructional expectations and practices throughout the district.
- Training, coaching, and feedback are provided to principals and teachers in implementing research-based instructional and intervention strategies.
- District policies ensure the use of research-based instruction and interventions.
- The district, along with building principals, continually monitor instruction to ensure effectiveness.

*Other conditions related to our district's **Instructional Program** that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

4. District Culture/Learning Environment

- The district's written mission focuses on high achievement for all students and high performance of all staff.
- The district demonstrates through its policies and actions that all children can learn.

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- There is a shared responsibility among district and school leadership to ensure high academic and behavioral expectations for students.
- District staff members exhibit a sense of urgency to ensure all students learn.
- District policies ensure a safe, productive learning environment for students and staff.
- The district demonstrates the belief that collaboration at all levels is essential to design and implement effective learning programs.
- The district demonstrates the belief that it should function as a standards-based district by implementing research-based practices that support students in learning standards at mastery levels.
- The district ensures all students are provided adequate opportunities to learn.
- The district supports all schools and teachers in understanding and providing multiple opportunities to learn at a mastery level within and beyond the classroom.
- The district supports all schools to design a system of tiered support including a variety of instructions to meet the learning needs of all students.
- The district creates multiple opportunities to celebrate staff and student successes.

*Other conditions related to our district's **Culture/Learning Environment** that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

5. Student, Family, and Community Support

- The district creates partnerships with families, community groups, and businesses to support high levels of learning for all students.
- Multiple communication strategies provide information to families and the community, particularly regarding student achievement and growth in student performance.
- The district provides training to staff in creating and using partnerships to support the district's academic program.
- The district reports student progress and proficiency in the district's standards, i.e., report cards, progress reports, reports to the community, etc.

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*Other conditions related to our district's support and **Engagement of Students, Families, and Community** that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

6. Professional Growth

- Professional development is highly valued, funded, and focused on quality teaching and learning throughout the district.
- A comprehensive professional development plan guides the growth of all staff members in effective, research-based instruction and assessment practices.
- Student learning data is used to plan and design professional development.
- Professional development is evaluated to determine effectiveness.
- All new instructional staff members (e.g., principals, teachers, and para-professionals) complete induction programs that focus on standards-based education practices.

*Other conditions related to our district's **Professional Growth** program that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

7. Personnel Policies

- The district's hiring policies and practices ensure applicants are qualified with high levels of knowledge and skill in research-based teaching and learning practices.
- The evaluation process emphasizes staff performance in implementing standards-based education practices.

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- All staff members develop personal growth goals that enhance their standards-based education practices.
- The evaluation process is periodically reviewed for effectiveness in ensuring all staff members effectively implement standards-based education practices.
- The district demonstrates a willingness to address professional performance concerns at all levels.
- Continued monitoring of instructional and assessment practices is emphasized throughout the district with high levels of accountability for all staff.

*Other conditions related to our district's **Personnel Policies** that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

8. Leadership

- District leadership develops and implements a standards-based framework for teaching and learning.
- All district leaders hold and communicate high expectations for the performance of students and educators.
- District and school leaders demonstrate knowledge and skills in implementing standards-based practices.
- The district places a strong emphasis on instructional leadership at all levels of the system.
- Leadership continually builds the capacity of all staff to positively impact student learning.
- The district supports the engagement and development of teacher leaders at all levels to advance high-quality teaching and learning practices.
- District leaders continually articulate their expectations for the implementation of standards-based practices at the district and school level.

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- District and school leadership ensures all staff have access to standards-based materials, data resources, and professional development.
- District leadership ensures data systems are available to store, disaggregate, and analyze student achievement data.
- District leadership ensures school staff members have access to student achievement data and the training to understand and analyze that learning data.
- District and school leadership strategically allocates resources including time, systems, and processes to support standards-based education practices.
- Ongoing professional development is provided to district and school leaders to ensure their knowledge and understanding of standards-based education practices.
- District leadership monitors the work of school administrators to ensure quality teaching and learning practices in all schools.

*Other conditions related to our district **Leadership** that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

9. Resource Allocation and Budgeting

- The district budget ensures adequate fiscal and personnel resources to implement standards-based education practices.
- Staffing is allocated based on student learning needs (vs. other criteria such as seniority, staff preference, etc.)
- Adequate resources are provided to ensure appropriate professional development in standards-based education practices.
- Resources are expended in accordance with the district's unified improvement plan, focusing on increased student achievement.
- Grants or other external funding sources are prioritized based on their impact on student learning.

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*Other conditions related to our district's **Resource Allocation and Budgeting** systems that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

10. Comprehensive and Effective Planning

- The district and schools develop yearly unified improvement plans focused on improving student learning through the implementation of standards-based education practices.
- District and school unified improvement plans are based on analysis of student learning data.
- District and school unified improvement plans include specific actions focusing on implementing and improving standards-based education practices.
- District and school unified improvement plans are evaluated based on staff implementation of standards-based education practices and student achievement.

*Other conditions related to our district **Improvement Planning** that are important to support standards-based education practices:*

11. Other Conditions:

***Other Conditions** that are important to support standards-based education practices:*