

SCHLECHTY CENTER SYSTEM CAPACITY STANDARDS

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STANDARD 1: DEVELOPING A SHARED UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR CHANGE

The members of the board of education, the superintendent, central office staff, principals, teacher leaders, leaders of parent organizations, and key community leaders (e.g., civic leaders, business leaders) have a common understanding of the nature of the problems and opportunities that confront the school district and base their discussions of these issues on a common body of fact and information.

STANDARD 2: DEVELOPING SHARED BELIEFS AND VISION

The school district and its community develop within the local context a compelling vision of what schools can be and how schools can be related to the community—a vision capable of earning wide support in the school district and in the community and consistent with a set of well-articulated beliefs regarding the nature of schools and the schooling enterprise.

STANDARD 3: DEVELOPING A FOCUS ON STUDENTS AND ON THE QUALITY OF WORK PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

Throughout the school district there is a clear focus on students and on the quality of the work provided to students—work that students find interesting, challenging, and satisfying and that results in their learning what is expected by schools, parents, and the community.

STANDARD 4: DEVELOPING STRUCTURES FOR PARTICIPATORY LEADERSHIP

The school district develops patterns of leadership and a structure of relationships such that teachers are leaders, principals are leaders of leaders, and all school district-level activity is focused on providing direction and support for schools.

STANDARD 5: DEVELOPING STRUCTURES FOR RESULTS-ORIENTED DECISION MAKING

The school district develops a results-oriented management system and a quality-focused decision-making process that are consistent with the beliefs that guide the system and that ensure that the measures of quality conform with the requirements of those who provide support to students and the schools.

STANDARD 6: DEVELOPING STRUCTURES FOR CONTINUITY

The school district provides for stability in leadership, structure, and culture over time, including support for innovative efforts that produce desired results.

STANDARD 7: PROVIDING ONGOING SUPPORT

The school district provides systems of training and development, incentives, and social and political support for those who are committed to the district's beliefs and vision and widens support for the pursuit of the beliefs and vision among all members of the community.

STANDARD 8: FOSTERING INNOVATION AND FLEXIBILITY

The district develops a policy environment and management system that foster flexibility and rapid response; that encourage innovative use of time, technology, and space; that encourage novel and improved staffing patterns; and that create forms of curriculum organization that are responsive to the needs of students.

STANDARD 9: EMPLOYING TECHNOLOGY

The school district and community display a common understanding of the transformational nature of changes in information-processing technologies, and the district provides all students and adults who work in the schools the tools required for quality work.

STANDARD 10: FOSTERING COLLABORATION

The school district encourages and supports the creation of relationships within the school district, between schools and parents, and among those agencies and groups that provide service to children and youth, in order to ensure that each child has the support needed to succeed in school and in the community.