

VISION OF SUCCESS

SCHOOLWIDE VISION

- Provides a framework within which to evaluate new ideas or programs.
- Helps determine which program to implement, revise or reject.
- Provides a general consensus about ways to respond to challenges.
- Is often reflected in mission statements.
- Is clear, coherent, simply stated, and widely communicated.
- Helps unite people to move in the same general direction.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Concerned parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include parents, students, faculty, staff, and community members, begin by honestly examining their assumptions about schools and students.• They contribute to drafting a vision for the future of the school.	Principals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine and articulate their own personal vision and share it widely in the school.• They initiate the process of forging a community vision and provide leadership throughout the process.

TOOLS

Formulating a vision, achieving consensus, and sharing it with stakeholders are steps that must be taken carefully. Any simple statement may sound superficial and probably will not convey the full meaning or underlying beliefs of the vision.

HERE IS HOW ONE PRINCIPAL APPROACHED THE VISION PROCESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The principal appointed a “think tank” of 16 hand picked faculty members and two prominent community leaders whose organizations were located within the school’s catchment area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The group met regularly, distributed, and read material on school improvement, and discussed what could be done to improve.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the end of the year, a week-long retreat was held off-site. Numerous brainstorming sessions were held to (1) establish a mission statement and shared vision for the school, (2) formulate strategies for involving the rest of the faculty and parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A comprehensive strategy was planned and implemented to spread the vision through meeting, networking, and small-group discussions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual components of the school vision were identified. A task force of faculty, community leaders, parents, and students was formed to focus on each component. Administrator served, but not eligible to be chairperson.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly, the group chairs meet to present their task force’s recommendations to the principal. Recommendations that achieved consensus were implemented.