
Relate the school to life, and all studies are of necessity related - John Dewey

School Leadership

Section 99(b) PEI Schools Act assigns each school principal the task of providing “educational leadership in the school”, but the other 15 responsibilities are administrative. As the system is now operated, **administrative and professional leadership are not compatible**; it’s the administrative responsibilities that demand attention and get measured; the functions need to be separated. I know because I’ve been there and done that.

I believe, and have for many years, that principals can, and do, make a difference to student learning; more than anyone else in a school, they are in key positions to create a positive learning environment. A principal’s impact is increased when:

- Given significant autonomy over day to day decision making. A 2010 report by the OECD shows that autonomy at the school level increases student performance. Delegating downward should be the order of the day.
- Freedom is used in ways that maximize effectiveness. A recent report from New Zealand suggests that providing instructional leadership is the best use of a principal’s time, better by far than spending time visiting classrooms.
- Some professional development funds and days are available at the discretion of the principal in support of activities that enhance local needs and priorities.
- Some or all of the administrative duties can be assumed by others.

Approach to Grading

The Vancouver Sun of April 12 2013 reports that **Ridge Meadows School District plans to move away from letter grades**; instead teachers will use a conference model to assess content, learning style, readiness and comprehension. The article did not mention the impact, if any, on students seeking entrance to postsecondary institutions or to employment.

Exemptions

Keith Hogg, a student at Charlottetown Rural believes that students should be able to write exams before taking a course and, if successful, gain an exemption. (Exams fail to prepare students for the workplace” ‘, Keith Hogg, Guardian, March 7, 2013) According to Mr. Hogg, **“Students would write exams at the beginning of the semester, and those who already knew the material would be exempt from coming to class.”**

More Hands-On Learning

The government of Alberta has introduced measures to allow high school students to take more dual credit courses. This allows students to enrol in courses that lead to credit both at the high school and postsecondary level. The Government has allocated more than \$11 million over three years to its Dual Credit Strategy.

Education 20/20 Inc.

101 Kent St., PO Box 624

Charlottetown, PEI C1A 1M0 Canada

Tel: 902-892-2060

Email: pei@caneducation2020.com

URL: www.caneducation2020.com –under construction