Leading for impact

High-impact school leadership



What is it?

High-impact school leadership can be demonstrated by all individuals within a school. It is the practice of developing individual and collective teaching expertise and learning, and is pivotal to delivering the best outcomes for young Australians.

The five professional practices of the Australian Professional Standard for Principals are those of a high-impact school leader:

Leading teaching
and learning

Developing self and others

Leading the management of the school

Leading improvement, innovation and change

Engaging and working with the community

Why high-impact school leadership?

Creates the conditions for teachers to understand their own impact on student outcomes and continually improve their teaching practice. Operates in fast-changing and increasingly complex circumstances whilst understanding the strong foundations of a great education.

Utilises educational expertise and management skills to create a school culture focused on improving the quality of teaching and learning and securing a strong rate of progress for all learners.

Fosters a culture of professional learning and growth, where staff work with others to develop and share expertise.

High-impact school leadership is most effective when:

Leadership is distributed and collaborative.

Teams work together to accomplish the shared vision and aims of the school.

The practices and capabilities of leaders evolve as they move through their careers.

Things to consider:

- The most effective leaders see learning as central to their professional lives.
- Almost all successful leaders draw on the same repertoire of core leadership practices and behaviours.
- Key personal qualities and capabilities explain the significant variation in leadership effectiveness.

Where can I find out more:

Leading for impact video case studies

Leading for impact: Australian guidelines for school leadership development

Australian Professional Standard for Principals and the Leadership Profiles

Leading for impact reflection tools

The complete suite of associated 'What is guides'

The above can be found on the AITSL website.