

ADMinsight

A fact sheet for principals & vice-principals that focuses on leadership in public education

Question

“The role of school leadership has changed significantly. What do parents need to know about the role that principals and vice-principals play in schools today?”

Key Considerations

Assignment

Principals and vice-principals are appointed to their districts and are assigned to schools based on a determination by the district.

Reassignment

Principals and vice-principals are reassigned schools or programs regularly based on the needs of the school district.

Association

Principals and vice-principals are not members of the provincial teachers' union. The majority of principals and vice-principals in BC have voluntary membership in the BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association.

Training

The majority of principals and vice-principals in the province are required to have a Master's degree to become a school administrator.



The Nature of School Leadership

A school principal is the primary leader in the school who shapes a vision for student success, creates a climate conducive to student learning, manages people, processes and policies, implements the vision of the Ministry of Education and School Boards and ensures that school communities are safe and orderly places.

The School Act

The powers and duties of BC's principals and vice-principals are outlined in Regulation 5 of the *School Act*. The School Act requires that all public school must have at least a principal, vice-principal or director of instruction who has significant responsibilities within the school. The responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- The organization of classes and allocation of resources.
- Creating and maintaining a safe and orderly school.
- The supervision of teachers and support staff.
- The maintenance of the building and grounds.
- Ensuring compliance with Ministry objectives and policies.
- Effectively implementing School Board policies.
- Creating, implementing and monitoring school goals.
- Liaising with community groups and support agencies.
- The implementation of educational programs.



The various roles of principals and vice-principals

- Principals and vice-principals are considered instructional leaders, who assist teachers with planning, instruction and assessment.
- Principals and vice-principals perform many operational and management duties that contribute to student achievement such as timetabling, attendance, student discipline and the creation and implementation of programs that supports student learning and development.
- As the school's lead learner, principals and vice-principals work with all staff members to sustain a positive learning environment and ensure high levels of learning.
- Principals and vice-principals have expertise in many areas including human resources, threat assessment, school law, health and safety and positive behaviour interventions.

A day in the life of a Principal

While every day is different, the typical day of a principal or vice-principal consists of ensuring that students arrive to school safely, meeting with teachers, support staff and parents, managing facilities and resources, ensuring the safety of students, responding to Ministry and Board policies and directives, and focusing on student learning, engagement and safety.

As a parent, what do I do when I have a concern about school?

Principals and vice-principals have complex jobs that require them to balance the needs of the school community, their school boards, the Ministry and individual students. Every day, principals and vice-principals make decisions based on the needs of individual student and the school community.

If your question is school-based in nature it is best to address this question with the school principal or vice-principal directly.

If you have a question regarding your child's program or learning the best place to start is your child's teacher. If your concerns escalate or you do not believe your concerns are adequately addressed than you should approach your school's principal or vice-principal.

What do Principals want parents to know?

Principals and vice-principals wear many hats in their roles. Every day their focus is on doing what is in the best interest of students. Principals and vice-principals want students to be happy, successful at school and well-prepared for the future. Ensuring these goals are met means that there needs to be a supportive relationship and open lines of communication between parents and the school.

REFERENCE:

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