
Contents

Preface	viii
Acknowledgments	xi
About the Authors	xiii
Introduction	1
Six Standards for High-Performing Schools	9
Standard One: Establish a Well-Crafted, Focused, Valid, and Clear Curriculum to Direct Teaching	15
Strategy 1: Embed External Assessment Target Objectives in the Written Content Standards and Link Them to State Standards	17
Strategy 2: Have Clear and Precise District Curriculum Objectives—Content, Context, and Cognitive Type	20
Strategy 3: Deeply Align Objectives From External Assessments	24
Strategy 4: Sequence Objectives for Mastery Well Before They Are Tested	28
Strategy 5: Provide a Feasible Number of Objectives to Be Taught	30
Strategy 6: Identify Specific Objectives as Benchmark Standards	34
Strategy 7: Place Objectives in a Teaching Sequence	36
Strategy 8: Provide Access to Written Curriculum Documents and Direct the Objectives to Be Taught	38
Strategy 9: Conduct Staff Development in Curriculum and Its Delivery	41
Standard Two: Provide Assessments Aligned With the Curriculum	45
Strategy 10: Develop Aligned District Pre-Post Criterion-Referenced Assessments	48
Strategy 11: Have a Pool of Unsecured Test Items by Objective	51
Strategy 12: Establish Secured Performance Benchmark Assessments	53

Strategy 13: Conduct Assessment Training	57
Strategy 14: Use Assessments Diagnostically	61
Strategy 15: Teach Students to Be “Test Wise”	64
Strategy 16: Establish a Reasonable Testing Schedule and Environment	68
Strategy 17: Disaggregate Assessment Data	71
Strategy 18: Maintain Student Progress Reports	75

Standard Three: Align Program and Instructional Resources With the Curriculum and Provide Student Equality and Equity	81
Strategy 19: Align Programs With the Curriculum to Ensure Congruity	83
Strategy 20: Use Research and Data That Document Results to Drive Program Selection, and Validate the Implementation of Programs With Action Research	88
Strategy 21: Evaluate Programs to Determine Their Effectiveness in Strengthening Student Achievement of Curriculum Objectives	96
Strategy 22: Align Textbooks and Instructional Resources With the District Curriculum Objectives and Assessments in Both Content and Context Dimensions	106
Strategy 23: Use Technology in Design or Selection Procedures to Ensure Strong Connections to System Learning Expectations and Feedback	110
Strategy 24: Provide Training in the Use of Instructional Resources and Their Alignment With System Curriculum Objectives—Content, Context, and Cognitive Type	116
Strategy 25: Select or Modify Instructional Resources for Lessons to Ensure Full Alignment With System Objectives and Tested Learning	120
Strategy 26: Place Students in Programs and Activities in an Equitable Manner and With Equal Access to the Curriculum	124
Strategy 27: Implement Effective Programs and Strategies With English Language Learners	129

Standard Four: Use a Mastery Learning Approach and Effective Teaching Strategies	139
Strategy 28: Implement a Mastery Learning Model	141
Strategy 29: Align Teaching With the Curriculum	156
Strategy 30: Provide Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction as Well as Differentiated Time to Learn	162
Strategy 31: Provide Practice to Master the Curriculum	171
Strategy 32: Use Effective Instructional Practices	176

Strategy 33: Use Powerful Vocabulary Development Strategies	188
Strategy 34: Establish Individual Learning Plans for Low-Achieving Students	198
Standard Five: Establish Curriculum Expectations, Monitoring, and Accountability	205
Strategy 35: Provide for High Expectations for Achievement for Each Student	206
Strategy 36: Monitor the Curriculum	211
Strategy 37: Visit Classrooms and Provide Follow-up	216
Strategy 38: Use Disaggregated Data in the Decision-Making Process	219
Strategy 39: Focus Staff Appraisal on Professional Growth	224
Standard Six: Institute Effective District and School Planning, Staff Development, and Resource Allocation, and Provide a Quality Learning Environment	229
Strategy 40: Develop a District Planning Process That Is Strategic in Nature and Provides Guidance for the Development of District and School Long-Range Plans	231
Strategy 41: Create and Implement a Singular, Focused, Multiyear District Plan That Incorporates Change Strategies for Higher Student Achievement	235
Strategy 42: Align School Plans With the District Plan	238
Strategy 43: Implement Aligned Teacher Training to Reach District and School Goals	244
Strategy 44: Implement Administrative Training Aligned With the Curriculum and Its Assessment and District Plan Priorities	248
Strategy 45: Provide Differentiated Staff Development	254
Strategy 46: Link Resource Allocations to Goals, Objectives, Priorities, and Diagnosed Needs of the System	259
Strategy 47: Provide Qualified and Adequate Personnel	264
Strategy 48: Remove Incompetent Staff or Help Them Achieve Satisfactory Functioning	271
Strategy 49: Provide a Quality Learning Environment	275
Strategy 50: Provide Quality Facilities	280
Summary	286
References	293
Index	306