The second edition of The Principalship from A to Z provides a set of tools that can be used immediately to improve your leadership practice. Organized into 26 chapters—one for each letter of the alphabet—this book covers the most important and prevalent issues and skills for leaders in today’s schools, including matters of limited funding, juggling social media, teacher evaluation, student achievement, school safety, and collaborating with parents. This accessible guide offers specific strategies that will help you navigate the complexity of your job and help you to become a more effective principal.

EXPLORE THESE TOPICS AND MORE WITH THE PRINCIPALSHIP FROM A TO Z.

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ALL ABOUT ACHIEVEMENT
Effective principals adopt a “whatever it takes” stance toward student achievement. Every school activity is seen through the lens of student learning. Consider this question: “How would __________ positively impact student learning?”

BEGIN WITH A VISION
Having a clear vision or purpose for a school is important for a principal. Not only must you have a personal vision, but also you must be committed to working collaboratively with teachers, staff, families, and students to articulate a clear and compelling shared vision for the school.

COLLABORATING FOR SUCCESS
The job of a principal is too complex to isolate oneself when making decisions. The effective principal delegates some responsibilities but shares the decision-making process for some areas with stakeholders. They find an appropriate balance.

DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS
Once you have identified patterns, developed your priorities, goals, or area of focus, study and select strategies that will allow you to address the area of focus. This is a pivotal point. Too often, we gather and analyze data and set goals, but then we fail to use that information to make decisions on an ongoing basis.

EFFECTIVE SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE
Policies and procedures should be appropriate for your school population, addressing the sources of misbehavior and taking into consideration such factors as the age level of your students. Many school districts have begun to use forms of restorative justice for some forms of student misbehavior as an alternative to traditional disciplinary approaches.
FINDING THE RIGHT PEOPLE
Ideally, you have the right people in place in every aspect of your organization. Focus your efforts on hiring and keeping the right people, but when you have a mismatch, finish with the wrong person in a way that is legal, while preserving the dignity of everyone involved.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT
Assessment and grades make an impact on student learning. It is important to consider how they reflect the philosophy and culture of your school. Balancing the use of formative assessment to inform instruction with authentic grading policies will have a positive impact on your students.

HOW TO IMPACT SCHOOL CULTURE
The culture of your school reflects the beliefs of those who work and visit. Planning rituals and ceremonies can be time-consuming, but the results are worth it. School culture affects all facets of your work. Invest in it.

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP
It is easy to get caught up in the endless stream of issues related to school management. However, providing leadership for effective instruction is critical and must take priority. Additionally, creating a rigorous learning environment for all students is important and will help close the achievement gap.

JUGGLING SOCIAL MEDIA
Nurture and support a culture of openness and collaboration; talk with teachers, families, and other stakeholders about social media technology, its benefits, and how to minimize the negatives. Support professional development on new and emerging technologies, and learn about new trends that are impacting your school.