



N P B E A

National Policy Board for
Educational Administration
Alliance for Advancing School Leadership

PRESS RELEASE

Washington, D.C. -- The National Policy Board for Educational Administration (NPBEA) today endorsed a new set of standards for school leaders and launched an advocacy campaign encouraging states to adopt those standards. An alliance of six leading professional organizations committed to advancing school leadership, NPBEA carefully guided development of the new leadership standards.

Called the Professional Standards for Educational Leadership, or PSEL, the new standards incorporate the latest research indicating what students need to become successful learners and what school leaders can do to create more a more effective learning environment. They set broad expectations for the preparation, practice and evaluation of school leaders.

Three states, Delaware, Vermont, and Washington, have already adopted the PSEL standards.

“I firmly believe that a critical component of a school’s success is the learning leader at its helm,” said Dr. Susan Bunting, Delaware’s Secretary of Education, “and PSEL standards constitute the guideposts for the skills and knowledge we want all school leaders in Delaware to demonstrate as they lead schools.”

PSEL standards are the result of an extensive 3-year process that took an in-depth look at the new education leadership landscape. It involved a thorough review of the latest research, the input of researchers and more than 1,000 school and district leaders to identify gaps among earlier standards dating from 1997 and 2008. They recognize that today’s school leaders face new and significant challenges, and discern the importance of building a positive learning community that includes parents, teachers and administrators in support of students.

“Schools need effective leaders now more than ever to take on the challenges of educating students for success in the 21st Century,” said JoAnn Bartoletti, chair of the NPBEA Board and Executive Director of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). “They stress the importance of both academic rigor as well as the support and care required for each student to excel.”

The PSEL model ten fundamental standards for school leaders, from setting mission and core values for schools and being culturally responsive, to curriculum and seeking continuous school improvement. The full PSEL standards can be found at www.npbea.org/psel

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NPBEA's advocacy involves all six member organizations and their tens of thousands of members, including school principals, school superintendents, chief state school officers, and leaders of the nation's advanced leadership preparation programs. All six organizations have endorsed PSEL standards and will support outreach through their member conferences and communications.

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