

Turning Principles Into Stories

A school's vision should be based on a few nonnegotiable principles that become the guide for decision making throughout the school. Stories help translate philosophical principles into real-world, day-by-day actions. Use the following table to brainstorm a handful of convincing stories from your own experience that you can use to easily communicate complex ideas.

Core Principle: Important decisions in a professional learning community should be made collaboratively.

Potential Story:

- Will this story ring true to teachers?
- Can this story be retold easily?
- Is this story memorable?

Core Principle: Professional learning communities are defined by their commitment to ensuring that every child learns. Failure is not an option.

Potential Story:

- Will this story ring true to teachers?
- Can this story be retold easily?
- Is this story memorable?

Core Principle: Results must be used to drive all decisions in a professional learning community.

Potential Story:

- Will this story ring true to teachers?
- Can this story be retold easily?
- Is this story memorable?

Core Principle: Professional learning teams see themselves as interdependent peers instead of independent operators and accept collective responsibility for the success of all students.

Potential Story:

- Will this story ring true to teachers?
- Can this story be retold easily?
- Is this story memorable?

Core Principle:

Potential Story:

- Will this story ring true to teachers?
- Can this story be retold easily?
- Is this story memorable?