What makes a great school leader?

Contrary to what many believe, the answer is not tied to a certain kind of personality, but to specific behaviors and actions that McREL’s research and analysis found have positive effects on students and teachers—behaviors and actions that any school leader can learn and put into practice.

McREL’s Balanced Leadership™ training helps principals, assistant principals, and teacher leaders understand and apply these 21 responsibilities to their professional practices.

This training goes beyond simply explaining what to do and how to do it—it also helps participants understand why particular leadership responsibilities are essential and when to use them.

McREL’s Balanced Leadership Professional Learning Series

Session 1: Balanced Leadership Overview
Participants will learn the 21 key responsibilities and behaviors that research shows have the strongest connection to student and staff success and see how McREL’s Balanced Leadership framework turns the research and vision into action and results.

Session 2: Managing Change
Some school staff are receptive to change, while others are resistant. School leaders must understand why staff members view change differently and what they can do to help each individual with the change process. Learn how to initiate, monitor, and lead change effectively and receive practical guidance for leading straightforward “first-order” changes as well as more challenging “second-order” changes.

Session 3: The Focus of School Leadership
Every leader is faced with the challenge of managing an overflowing list of school improvement initiatives. As a result, even strong leaders can sometimes focus on the wrong things. During this session, we’ll help you focus your leadership on what matters most—the best leverage points for improving student achievement, staff success, and school performance.

Session 4: Developing a Purposeful School Community
Research shows that a strong school culture is an even more powerful predictor of student success than socioeconomic status. Engage in a variety of hands-on learning experiences that will help you develop a positive school culture and collective efficacy that reflects a clear vision for success, high expectations for behavior and learning, and a shared belief among staff that together they can make a difference for students.