HOW DOES INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP LEAD TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT?

Instructional leadership is focusing on factors that promote and support teaching and learning for the success of all students. Various research studies support the concept that leaders do impact student achievement. Effective instructional leaders strive to improve student learning when they create a shared vision for the school community, allow stakeholders to participate in the decision-making process, provide professional learning from identified needs, and possess awareness of instructional practices in the school building.

Research studies on high-achieving schools find that principals play an important role in building and sustaining the school’s vision. With an unwavering focus on student success and school improvement, an effective instructional leader, in partnership with the commitment of all stakeholders, cultivates a vision that guides the school community.

Allowing leadership to flourish throughout the school building rather than a single individual leading to success is an effective leadership practice. Shared leadership affirms the integral role everyone plays in fulfilling the vision and the learning goals created to accomplish the vision. Instructional leadership also encompasses taking the lead in promoting professional growth and learning, both for the leader and his/her staff. In order to promote the practices that lead to effective teaching and mastery learning, leaders need to plan and organize professional development and participate in the process, striking a connection between learning, collegiality, and collective responsibility. Effective instructional leaders are knowledgeable about curriculum standards and are able to judge the effectiveness of teaching by observing and monitoring teacher practice regularly. Monitoring classes helps identify the materials, professional learning, and coaching needed in the school.

WANTED –
A “visionary leader” who can oversees a staff of about 100, handle multimillion dollar budgets, design curriculum for numerous subject areas, effectively mete out discipline to employees and minors, develop professional learning communities, maintain a safe working environment, build rapport with parents and children, and lift test scores of underperforming students.