**Reflection Journal Template**

**EDLS 695: Principal Internship**

**AnchorDate March 10, 2012**

**AnchorJournal Entry #: Weldele- Week 2**

**AnchorIssue addressed: Communication**

* **Colorado Principal Standard addressed:**
* **I Principals Demonstrate Strategic Leadership: a. Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals, b. School Improvement Plan, c Leading change**
* **II Principals Demonstrate Instructional Leadership: a. Curriculum, Instruction, Learning and Assessment, Instructional Time, Implementing High-quality Instruction, d. High Expectations for all Students**
* **VII Pricncipals Demonstrate Leadership Around Student Growth: a Student Adacademic Achievement and Growth, c. Use of Data**

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| **AnchorInstructions: Please take time to reflect on your learning during the week or collectively over the course. The two-sided reflection template provides you the prompts for this introspection. Save this electronically and submit in accordance with the guidelines provided by your facilitator.** | |
| * **What I Observed/Learned: Making a budget and program decision based on the Strategic Plan** * Our Superintendent is frequently setting up demonstrations with various technology vendors and support programs. The demonstrations are a regular occurrence at our monthly Principal’s meetings and sometimes are set up for local presentations at our schools. The bells and whistles of these various products and programs are attractive and enticing. The reality of the budget, however, makes sitting through repeated presentations frustrating and confusing. It was our work in school finance that connected the budget directly to the strategic plan that helped me start sifting through all of the opportunities to zero in on what is needed for our school. * Having recently solidified our Strategic Plan goals in our School Advisory Council, I was able to focus on our need for Formative Assessment. I asked for a follow-up and free trial with one of the programs that had been presented to the Principal’s. It met the criteria for being curriculum and standards based as well as offering teachers excellent data and differentiation for students. * The two-week trial brought rave reviews from students, teachers and parents. I now had a program that met the identified strategic goals of the school, was positively received by all stakeholders and was linked to student achievement. * I was then able to present to our Parent Organization the positive information about the program and request financial support. The request was met with an eager desire to support the program. | * **How This Will Impact My Leadership Practice** * **How will this impact how I make decisions regarding students, staff, and/or parents?**   The Strategic Plan is now my guiding light. I know that is a pretty obvious plan but this is a recent development for our school. I can already see how much it will impact and direct my decision making. I can see how much less overwhelming the mountain of possibilities become when viewed through the lens of the strategic plan. There are always going to be ‘neat’ products and programs or the ‘latest and greatest’ update available. I can narrow my focus by staying true to the Strategic Plan.   * **How will this impact those I lead? What will I need to supervise closely and what can be delegated?**   By narrowing my own focus, I can significantly reduce the amount of feedback I am asking for from my faculty, students and parents. When I presented the 2-week trial of our new math program to the faculty they were interested an excited. I was able to convey that we were seriously considering the program due to its alignment to the strategic plan but their input was critical to knowing if this was the right choice. The teachers really appreciated being included in the decision making process and that their opinion was asked about something that we could really pursue. The trial also gave student and parents the opportunity to get on board and show their support.   * **How will this impact my leadership processes?**   This has been a very positive experience. Though it is now evident it is how I should have been operating all along, I really had not made major decisions about programs to this point. The lack of direction left me without a filter and in an effort to not waste money I was not moving forward. It is a little embarrassing to share this particular story because it is what I should have been doing all along. |
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***Critical Issues***

* Formative Assessment
* Strategic Plan and Budgeting
* Data and Student Achievement