Reflection Journal Template

EDLS 695: Principal Internship

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Journal Entry #: 2

Issue addressed (e.g. Student Discipline): CHOICE applications / Student Enrollment

Colorado Principal Standard addressed:

**a. School Resources and Budget:** Principals establish systems for marshaling all available school resources to facilitate the work that needs to be done to improve student learning, achievement and healthy development for all students.

They implement effective operational systems to use time, personnel, technology and resources to support student learning.

Within the parameters of the district and economic environment, principals ensure that all school operation systems are managed according to principles of business management, budgeting and accounting practices.

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| Instructions: 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. You can use the return or tab to move between the cells in the document. Save this electronically and submit in accordance with the guidelines provided by your facilitator. | |
| What I Observed/Learned | How This Will Impact My Leadership Practice |
| * What new knowledge did I gain in my observations and interactions?   I spent a couple of hours with my building principal going over the procedures involved in making enrollment decisions for next year. Mainly, our time was spent pouring over CHOICE applications and how he decides who gets into our school and on what grounds students and families are denied.  It seems to be an exhausting component of the principalship. There are so many factor that go into making the decisions of who gains access to our school. Sometimes, because of funding and staffing concerns, families from the neighborhood where the school is get denied on choice applications for the simple reason that out of district students bring in more funding, which then helps to staffing dollars increase. It is a very political game in making these choices, but I think there is really no other way to design a system of CHOICE. We work the best with what we have. | * How will this impact how I make decisions regarding students, staff, and/or parents?   Due to the fact that out of district students bring in more funding to neighborhood schools, staffing designs and budgets benefit from these types of decisions. We can actually add FTE's when more out of district students choice in and we gain access to more budgetary resources. It is horrible to think that we have to sometimes deny access to residents of the community because choice students have access, but it best for the school in the long run. The worst of this is, that community members must sometimes get put on a wait list.   * How will this impact those I lead? What will I need to supervise closely and what can be delegated?   Teachers and staff can sometimes get caught up in the politics of CHOICE when they really have no decision making power in the process. Staff needs to know that they can default to the principal when community members become upset at a system they don't fully understand. These are executive decisions and dialogue needs to take place with building and district level personnel.   * How will this impact my leadership processes?   Fully understanding the process is the most important thing for me. Next, being able to navigate the differing scenarios and knowing how to "play the CHOICE game" is important, too. You must be able to make people happy on all sides, as much as possible, but we have to look at things from a budgetary standpoint in these difficult financial times. |
| ***Critical Issues***to remember as I make decisions regarding students, employees, and/or parents and the law:  There are criteria set up for making CHOICE decisions. These put everyone's best interest at the forefront. As long as we follow the guidelines and go through the criteria for every single potential student, we are safe. We have to follow the rules 100% of the time. This way, the system will set US up for successful relationship building. | |