

Principal Leadership Survey



What are the issues principals want to discuss?



In May 2019, edWeb sent a survey to principals to understand the topics they are most interested in discussing.

150 principals responded with lots of input on topics, challenges, and accomplishments this year.



Top 10 topics of most interest

1. Providing high-impact professional development for teachers – 66%
2. Building a positive school climate – 63%
3. Creating an environment where teacher collaboration is the norm – 58%
4. Building an effective leadership team – 55%
5. Helping teachers maintain a positive attitude towards their students, parents, and the teaching profession in general – 55%
6. Engaging parents in their students education – 55%
7. Providing a supportive culture where teachers feel empowered to take risks – 55%
8. Creating a student-centered learning environment – 54%
9. Attracting, hiring, and retaining highly-qualified teachers – 52%
10. How to be a visionary lead learner – 51%



More principal leadership topics you'd like us to address



- Engaging and communicating with parents
- Managing stress and maintaining a work/life balance
- Time management
- Navigating difficult conversations with staff and parents
- School safety
- Supporting the mental health of students



Your biggest challenge as a principal this school year



- Time management
- Staff engagement and development
- Working with parents
- Student discipline and motivation
- Maintaining a positive school culture
- School safety



- “Keeping the students, staff and parents calm after the news released that there was a shooting threat at the school. Getting teachers to follow policies and procedures.”
- “The biggest challenge is addressing mental health needs of students suffering from trauma.”
- “Developing a safe learning environment in today's world.”



Student Discipline and Motivation

- “STUDENT MOTIVATION -- students simply refusing to do the work; failing because they ‘won't’ rather than they ‘can’t.’”
- “Keeping the students engaged in their learning process, and also parent involvement.”
- “Student attendance and parent/ student ownership.”
- “Students with high emotional needs.”
- “Chronic absenteeism.”
- “Consistent discipline.”



Maintaining a Positive School Culture

- “Conflicts between staff and maintaining a positive climate that benefits students.”
- “Keeping a positive school culture moving in the right direction while facing a large number of social emotional/trauma issues with students.”
- “Classroom management and positive school climate.”
- “The biggest challenge is addressing mental health needs of students suffering from trauma.”



- “Keeping the students, staff and parents calm after the news released that there was a shooting threat at the school. Getting teachers to follow policies and procedures.”
- “Keeping the students engaged in their learning process, and also parent involvement.”
- “Student attendance and parent/ student ownership.”
- “My biggest challenge has been working through legal documents with custodial issues and parents.”
- “Managing parent relationships.”
- “Parent engagement for students who are not engaged.”



- “Time constraints and lack of funding.”
- “Time management and time to effectively encourage and coach teachers.”
- “Probably just keeping up with everything while still maintaining time for me and my family.”
- “Time management. Making an impact with at risk students.”
- “Time management and time to effectively encourage and coach teachers.”
- “Not having enough staff to do the initiatives I want to do with fidelity.”
- “Trying to stay on top of the many aspects of the job.”
- “Having enough time to accomplish all the tasks to meet our goals.”



Staff Engagement and Development

- “Conflicts between staff and maintaining a positive climate that benefits students.”
- “Being new at the school, my biggest challenge has been balancing learning how things have been traditionally done and making very much needed changes while maintaining the support from the staff.”
- “Quality teacher retention.”
- “Getting experienced teachers to change or evolve with new practices and research.”
- “Teachers adapting to changes in requirements.”
- “Motivating teachers towards professional development.”
- “Increasing teacher expectations.”



Your biggest accomplishment as a principal this school year



- Building a positive school climate
- Engaging and encouraging staff
- Improving technology use in schools
- Student success and high graduation rates



- “Getting teachers to increase use of the technology we have on campus.”
- “Data analysis and development of intervention plan.”
- “100 % result at city level and introduction of STEM strategy.”
- “Building staff capacity in technology and classroom climates.”



- “Creating a collaborative environment where teachers can learn from each other.”
- “Getting teachers to do more collaboration.”
- “Improving teacher understanding of curriculum alignment.”
- “Working WITH the teachers to make the learning environment the best it can be for our students.”
- “Students feeling safe. Our work on social and emotional learning. Coaching others to become principals.”
- “Having teachers to go in and observe in other classrooms.”
- “Establishing a sense of teamwork among the staff.”



- “Building a positive culture among the staff, students and school.”
- “Creating a collaborative environment where teachers can learn from each other.”
- “Improving communication between staff members, parents, and students.”
- “Improved culture - more collaborative; solid leadership team willing & able to share leadership.”
- “School safety and team work culture.”
- “Providing mindfulness techniques to parents with kids with ADHD & other social-emotional issues.”
- “We have worked on using a more supportive environment and have dramatically decreased the need for restraints and seclusion.”
- “Keeping the school environment upbeat and positive with the many changes that have occurred.”



- “100% graduation rate of my seniors & them coming back after December graduation to see me & check in with my teachers.”
- “Every time a student who didn't think they were ever going to graduate, earns a credit, or becomes eligible for graduation, I know my team and I are having success.”
- “My biggest accomplishment has been implementing some new procedures that keep the students at the forefront of what we do as educators. It's about what is best for the students, not what is most convenient for the staff.”
- “Launching an artistic outlet program for students.”
- “Seeing our math scores increase due to increased use of math practices.”
- “Increasing the effectiveness of the student voice.”
- “Talking with individual students to get them to "see the light" and turn their academic failure to academic achievement.”



Watch the edWebinar on the Principal Leadership Survey Data

edWeb is developing a series of edWebinars based on the results of our Principal Leadership Survey, which asked principals and assistant principals what topics they are most interested in learning about. Watch the first edWebinar in the series, which discusses the results of the survey.



Principal Leadership: Voices from the Field

Presented by **Shannon Holden**, Principal, Pierce City High School, MO;
and **Dr. L. Robert Furman**, Principal, South Park Elementary Center, PA

Watch the first edWebinar [here](#).



Principals face many challenges leading schools and driving school improvement. Collaboration with peers is one of the most effective ways to learn about effective ideas and practices. The new edWeb community, Principal Leadership: Making a Difference, helps principals connect and collaborate to help each other in this endeavor. [Join the community](#) for invitations to edWebinars on new ideas, practices, and resources.



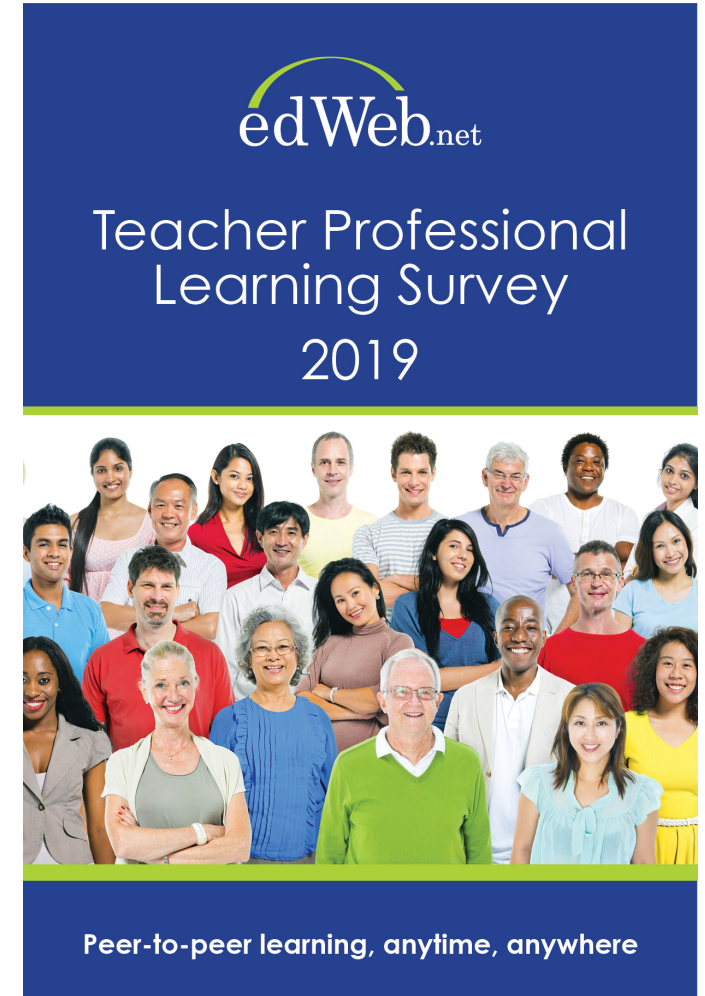


Get the results of the Teacher Professional Learning Survey

We've been conducting research on educators' use of edWeb and its impact on professional learning for a number of years to track trends in professional learning and look for ways to continuously improve.

The 2019 survey was sent to 97,580 teachers and received 1,739 replies with no incentive. That is a 1.78% response rate, and a 48% increase over last year's survey. edWeb membership also grew 30% in the past year. This coupled with the survey results show the continuing appeal and value of online professional learning, and the impact it has on teaching and student learning.

[Download the results of the 2019 Teacher Professional Learning Survey.](#)





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