

# Guiding Questions for Formal Site Visit with Principals: State Criteria & School Improvement Plan Alignment

- **Review of Goals (Criterion 3, 5, and 8 required) & AWSP Leadership Framework**
  - 3.4: How have you built your teachers' capacity to analyze data for the purposes of driving interventions and improving student learning?
  - 5.1 & 5.2: What systems are in place to monitor student achievement progress? To what extent have your School Improvement Plan goals (AMOs, SMART goals) been met to date?
  - 8.3: What sources of data are you using to demonstrate student growth?
  - Discuss other principal and evaluator-selected goals, as applicable.
- **Review of Other District Priorities**
  - Developing high-performing teacher teams
    - What structures and strategies are you using both to grow teacher leadership and an increased focus on student achievement improvement? To what extent are Learning Improvement days being used optimally for this purpose?
  - Transitions (early learning, MS, HS, post-secondary readiness indicators)
    - What structures and strategies are you using to prepare your students for learning-stage transitions? How are you communicating critical readiness factors with parents?
  - Promoting a culturally relevant learning environment & school community
    - How are students historically on the social and academic margins faring? How do you know? To what extent have your SIP strategies around equity and access been successful to date?
- **Instructional Growth: Teacher Observation Reports**
  - Review staff performance and areas for attention and support
    - What are the most effective teachers doing in your building and how are their effective instructional strategies being taken to scale with others?
  - Review the communication of clear learning targets in each classroom
    - To what extent are mastery-level objectives/criteria for success ubiquitous in your school? To what degree are teachers using the "Nested Thinking Behind Objectives" concept? (*The Skillful Teacher*, p. 386)

- TPEP-related support needs
  - What resources or professional learning opportunities not already offered/available to you would be most helpful going forward?
- **Walkthrough**
  - Classroom visits: Rigorous & engaging instruction look-fors
    - To what extent is rigorous and engaging instruction occurring in each of your classrooms? What tools are you using to assess rigor (e.g., Jackson, Costa, Danielson, Webb, etc.)?
    - How are you modeling rigorous instruction in leading professional learning opportunities with your staff and in your ongoing correspondence (e.g., weekly newsletters)?
  - Safe schools, safe classrooms
    - What steps and support are necessary to provide for physical, social, emotional, and intellectual safety for students and staff?
- **Other Site-Specific Issues & Needs**