



AdvancED®  
Standards  
for Quality



**ESAs**

EDUCATION  
SERVICE  
AGENCIES



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## AdvancED Standards for Quality ESAs

### **Standard 1: Purpose and Direction**

The agency maintains and communicates at all levels of the organization a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commit to providing programs and services, active learning, and high expectations for professional practice as well as shared values and beliefs.

### **Standard 2: Governance and Leadership**

The agency operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and agency effectiveness.

### **Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning**

The agency's services and programs support the educational needs of its constituent schools/systems through meaningful professional learning experiences.

### **Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems**

The agency provides resources, programs and services that support its purpose and direction for all constituent schools/systems.

### **Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement**

The agency implements a comprehensive evaluation system that generates a range of data about the effectiveness of the agency and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.

# Standard 1

## Purpose and Direction

*The agency maintains and communicates at all levels of the organization a purpose and direction for continuous improvement that commit to providing programs and services, active learning, and high expectations for professional practice as well as shared values and beliefs.*

### INDICATOR 1.1

The agency engages in a systematic, inclusive, and comprehensive process to review, revise, and communicate an agency purpose.

### INDICATOR 1.2

The agency leadership and staff at all levels commit to a culture that is based on shared values and beliefs that include provision of relevant and targeted educational programs and services, equitable support, active engagement in learning, application of knowledge and skills, and high expectations for professional practice.

### INDICATOR 1.3

Leadership of the agency implements a continuous improvement process that provides clear direction for improving conditions that support learning.

### INDICATOR 1.4 — *For ESAs that operate schools*

The agency ensures that each school engages in a systematic, inclusive, and comprehensive process to review, revise, and communicate a school purpose for student success.

## Standard 2

# Governance and Leadership

*The agency operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and agency effectiveness.*

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### INDICATOR 2.1

The governing body establishes policies and supports practices that ensure effective administration of the agency.

### INDICATOR 2.2

The governing body operates responsibly and functions effectively.

### INDICATOR 2.3

The governing body ensures that agency leadership has the autonomy to meet established goals and to manage day-to-day operations effectively.

### INDICATOR 2.4

Leadership and staff throughout the agency foster a culture consistent with the agency's purpose and direction.

### INDICATOR 2.5

Leadership engages stakeholders effectively in support of the agency's purpose and direction.

### INDICATOR 2.6

The agency's supervision and evaluation processes result in improved professional practice.

### INDICATOR 2.7 — *For ESAs that operate schools*

The governing body ensures that the school leadership has the autonomy to meet goals for achievement and instruction and to manage day-to-day operations effectively.

### INDICATOR 2.8

Leadership and staff foster a culture consistent with the school's purpose and direction.

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## **Standard 2: Governance and Leadership**

### **INDICATOR 2.9**

Leadership engages stakeholders effectively in support of the school's purpose and direction.

### **INDICATOR 2.10**

Leadership and staff supervision and evaluation processes result in improved professional practice and student success.

## Standard 3

# Teaching and Assessing for Learning

*The agency's services and programs support the educational needs of its constituent schools/systems through meaningful professional learning experiences.*

### **INDICATOR 3.1**

The agency provides equitable, relevant, and targeted support programs and/or services for all schools/systems.

### **INDICATOR 3.2**

The agency monitors its programs and services to measure effectiveness and to guide ongoing adjustments in delivery.

### **INDICATOR 3.3**

Agency staff provide professional learning opportunities that engage practitioners in their learning.

### **INDICATOR 3.4**

The agency uses collaboration as an essential operating principle in the development and delivery of its services and programs.

### **INDICATOR 3.5**

All agency staff members participate in a continuous program of professional learning.

### **INDICATOR 3.6**

The agency's support services meet the unique learning needs of its constituent schools/systems.

### **INDICATOR 3.7 – *For ESAs that operate schools***

The agency's curriculum provides equitable and challenging learning experiences that ensure all students have sufficient opportunities to develop learning, thinking, and life skills that lead to success at the next level.

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## **Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning**

### **INDICATOR 3.8**

Curriculum, instruction, and assessment are monitored and adjusted systematically in response to data from multiple assessments of student learning and an examination of professional practice.

### **INDICATOR 3.9**

Teachers throughout the agency engage students in their learning through instructional strategies that ensure achievement of learning expectations.

### **INDICATOR 3.10**

Agency and school leaders monitor and support the improvement of instructional practices of teachers to ensure student success.

### **INDICATOR 3.11**

Teachers participate in collaborative learning communities to improve instruction and student learning.

### **INDICATOR 3.12**

Teachers implement the agency's instructional process in support of student learning.

### **INDICATOR 3.13**

Mentoring, coaching, and induction programs support instructional improvement consistent with the agency's values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

### **INDICATOR 3.14**

The agency and its schools engage families in meaningful ways in their children's education and keep them informed of their children's learning progress.

### **INDICATOR 3.15**

The agency designs and evaluates structures in all schools whereby each student is well known by at least one adult advocate in the student's school who supports that student's educational experience.

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## **Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning**

### **INDICATOR 3.16**

The agency ensures that school staff participate in a continuous program of professional learning.

### **INDICATOR 3.17**

Grading and reporting are based on clearly defined criteria that represent the attainment of content knowledge and skills and are consistent across grade levels and courses.

### **INDICATOR 3.18**

The agency and its schools provide and coordinate learning support services to meet the unique learning needs of students.

## Standard 4

# Resources and Support Systems

*The agency provides resources, programs, and services that support its purpose and direction for all constituent schools/systems.*

### **INDICATOR 4.1**

The agency engages in a systematic process to recruit, employ, and retain a sufficient number of qualified professional and support staff to fulfill their roles and responsibilities and support the purpose and direction of the agency.

### **INDICATOR 4.2**

Material and fiscal resources are sufficient to support the purpose and direction of the agency.

### **INDICATOR 4.3**

The agency maintains facilities, services, and equipment to provide a safe, clean, and healthy environment for all.

### **INDICATOR 4.4**

The agency demonstrates strategic resource management that includes long-range planning in support of the purpose and direction of the agency.

### **INDICATOR 4.5**

The agency provides, coordinates, and evaluates the effectiveness of programs and services delivered to constituent schools and systems.

### **INDICATOR 4.6**

The agency provides technology infrastructure and equipment to support the teaching, informational, and operational needs of the agency and the schools/systems it serves.

### **INDICATOR 4.7 - *For ESAs that operate schools***

Instructional time, material resources, and fiscal resources are sufficient to support the purpose and direction of the agency and its schools.

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## **Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems**

### **INDICATOR 4.8**

The agency provides, coordinates, and evaluates the effectiveness of information resources and related personnel to support its schools' educational programs throughout the agency.

### **INDICATOR 4.9**

The agency provides, coordinates, and evaluates the effectiveness of support systems to meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of the student population being served.

### **INDICATOR 4.10**

The agency provides services that support the counseling, assessment, referral, educational, and career planning needs of all students.

## Standard 5

# Using Results for Continuous Improvement

*The agency implements a comprehensive evaluation system that generates a range of data about the effectiveness of the agency and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.*

### INDICATOR 5.1

The agency establishes and maintains a clearly defined and comprehensive evaluation system.

### INDICATOR 5.2

Professional and support staff throughout the agency continuously collect, analyze, and use a range of data sources, including comparison and trend data related to program evaluation and organizational conditions.

### INDICATOR 5.3

The agency's leadership monitors and communicates to stakeholders comprehensive information about learning and the achievement of agency improvement goals.

### INDICATOR 5.4 - *For ESAs that operate schools*

The agency establishes and maintains a clearly defined and comprehensive student assessment system.

### INDICATOR 5.5

Professional and support staff continuously collect, analyze, and apply learning from a range of data sources, including comparison and trend data about student learning, instruction, program evaluation, and organizational conditions.

### INDICATOR 5.6

Professional and support staff are trained in the evaluation, interpretation, and use of data.

### INDICATOR 5.7

The agency engages in a continuous process to determine verifiable improvement in student learning, including readiness for and success at the next level.

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## **Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement**

### **INDICATOR 5.8**

Agency and school leaders monitor and communicate to stakeholders comprehensive information about student learning, conditions that support student learning, and the achievement of school improvement goals.



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