

Questions for Focus Group Meetings, August 22, 2016

1. When it comes to the preparation of school building leaders, what matters most?
2. Can you teach people the things they need to be successful school building leaders?
3. What does it look like, when a school has an exemplary school building leader?
 - a. Does an exemplary leader uniquely provide anything (or can everything the leader provides be provided by another means)?
4. Among the factors we can control, research shows building leadership is 2nd only to teaching in impact on student success; why?
5. When someone first thinks about becoming a school building leader, what does a person look for in a program?
6. In your view, what three adjectives best describe an exemplary program to prepare school building leaders?
7. Why is there variation in the programs that are set up to prepare school building leaders, and is that variation good or bad (why)?
8. Is it important to know the quality of a program to prepare future school building leaders?
9. Is it possible to gauge the quality of a program to prepare future school building leaders? (if so, how can they be gauged)
10. Are improvements possible to the current process for preparing school building leaders in New York State; if so, what are they?
11. What separates a competent leader in a school where the trains run on time from a building leader in a school on the move, where staff, students, and parents feel they belong, and they work together, forging ahead on a journey to a better future?
12. What are pros and cons of judging a university program to prepare leaders on the basis of its graduates' performance?
13. Should universities that offer school building leader prep programs be held to any common requirements?
14. If you could make one improvement that would have the most positive impact on principal prep, what would it be?
15. How open should we be to innovative approaches to principal prep? Any guardrails?
 - a. Are there alternative methods (other than an exam) to tell whether those who aspire to be principal have what it takes?
 - b. Are there alternative routes to building leader certification (there are alternative routes for teachers and superintendents)?
 - c. Are there entities other than universities that have what it takes to prepare individuals to be successful building leaders?
16. Does state have a role to play; if so, what is that?
17. What is our blind spot; what have we not mentioned that is hugely important to this conversation?
18. Is it important to collaborate going forward? If so, how do we best accomplish that?