

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 4

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 2



Instructional Leaders Wanted

The work of a school administrator will always take more time than you have available. But, as Steven Covey reminds us, leaders need to make time for those things that are not urgent but very important. At this time of year one of those not urgent but very important activities is supporting your staff in the development of their professional growth plans. The Association has provided some support for professional growth plans that will be useful to you and your staff.

1. Automatic Specialist Council Memberships

Effective September 2007, every active member of the Association can select a membership in a specialist council of their choice at no cost. Members should visit the ATA website at www.teachers.ab.ca to activate their specialist council membership. Specialist councils are the community of practice for teachers and school administrators, providing excellent PD opportunities and resources.

2. Teacher Professional Growth Plans (TPGP) Online Module

The Association has developed an online tutorial on the Association website to support teachers and school administrators in the development of their professional growth plans. Using this resource you can easily access the provincial policy and

Teaching Quality Standard. The tutorial includes templates, suggestions for professional development activities and answers to frequently asked questions.

3. Have Interviews with Your Staff About Their Professional Growth Plans

The provincial policy on teacher professional growth, supervision and evaluation requires that principals review or approve each teacher's annual professional growth plan. As an instructional leader, this is probably one of the most important activities you can do to support the development of teaching practice. This meeting is an opportunity for you to engage your staff in collaborative, reflective conversation about their practice and to talk with them about what they might consider to enhance their practice. The Association's TPGP online tutorial has helpful suggestions and sample questions that principals can use to structure a meaningful meeting with each member of their staff.

Remember—the things that we spend time on are the ones that become most important in the eyes of staff. Focusing on effective professional development will send a message to your staff that teaching and learning are *the* most important activities in the school.

**The more
you seek
security,
the less
of it you
have. But
the more
you seek
opportunity,
the more
likely it is
that you will
achieve the
security that
you desire.**

—Brian Tracy



Upcoming Sessions

You are invited to attend

Teacher Growth Supervision and Evaluation Workshop

October 18, 2007 in Edmonton

October 23, 2007 in Calgary

If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Marilyn Terlaan in Member Services at marilyn.terlaan@ata.ab.ca.

WCEAC “Creating Connections Across Differences”

October 24–26, 2007

The Western Canadian Educational Administrators’ Conference is a conference for trustees, superintendents, central office personnel, principals and assistant principals from across Western Canada, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. It will be held at the Fantasyland Hotel, in Edmonton. If you are interested in attending, view the website at www.wceac.org.

Leadership Essentials for Administrators Conference

Administrators within the first two years of their appointment or administrators new to the province of Alberta are invited to attend the 2007 **Leadership Essentials for Administrators Conference** on November 22–23 at the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel and Conference Centre, in Calgary. Space is limited; apply early. A grant-in-aid will offset costs for participants. For more information and a registration form visit the ATA website at www.teachers.ab.ca/Resources for School-Based Administrators/Leadership Essentials for Administrators, or call Konni deGoeij in Member Services at 1-800-232-7208 or 447-9472, or Mark Yurick in Professional Development at 1-800-232-7208 or 447-9475.

For further information, visit www.teachers.ab.ca or contact Member Services at the Alberta Teachers’ Association, 447-9400 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta).

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