

THE DESIRED STATE



“Some decisions concern the general operation of the school and its continuous improvement. Schools typically place those decisions with a Leadership Team that is headed by the principal and includes teachers and other staff.” -Wise Ways, Indicator 42 (Leadership)

As systems and buildings return to the excitement of the new year, the leadership team is tasked with creating and prioritizing building goals based on data and alignment to district goals. The building team is the driving force behind school improvement efforts because it has the most direct contact with the educators using the effective practices/innovations in the classroom. This team will ensure the change process yields building wide improvement.

As the team looks through the lenses of the 4 areas foundational to continuous school improvement - Communication, Leadership, Data-Based Decision Making and Collaboration - it will work centering decisions around strengthening these areas. As the Kansas Learning Network provides information to the CSI, TSI & ATS buildings and district teams, the focus will remain on foundational areas to ensure sustainability across the system.

Wise Ways, Indicator 42 from the *Center on Innovations in Learning* states: “A Leadership Team consisting of the principal, teachers who lead the Instructional Teams, and other key professional staff meets regularly (twice a month or more for an hour each meeting) to review implementation of effective practice.”

As the leadership team sets aside time during meetings to focus on improvement efforts, some questions for consideration are:

- What is the vision of the team? How might it align with the organization’s vision?
- How is the communication facilitated and how often?
- What data sets are the team using to know that efforts are having the intended impact? How might that data be shared building wide?
- How does the team communicate decisions to the building and to the district?
- How is the Leadership Team intentionally setting aside time to meet twice a month regularly for at least an hour? How does this time look like? Sound like? Feel like?
- Does the current Leadership Team include the principal, teacher leaders, and other staff? Who else might the team wish to add as intentional advocates for all voices?