

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 move toward Spring and Summer months, often the work of the Leadership Team can take a backseat to many of the daily activities happening in systems. Spring is the time buildings take state assessments, give reading and math screeners while setting aside time for field trips and other warm weather activities. Leadership Team meetings can potentially get left behind at a time when those dialogues might be crucial in order to keep the continuous school improvement work moving forward.

There are 4 areas foundational to continuous school improvement - Communication, Leadership, Data-Based Decision Making and Collaboration. As the Kansas Learning Network provides information to the CSI, TSI & ATS buildings and districts, the focus will remain on those foundational areas. This newsletter is centered around Leadership and the Leadership Team.

Wise Ways, Indicator 42 from the *Center on Innovations in Learning* states: “In a collaborative culture, members of the school community work together effectively and are guided by a common purpose. All members of the community – teachers, administrators, students, and their families – share a common vision of what the school should be like. Together they set goals that lead them toward this vision... They recommend that a leadership team have six to twelve members including the principal and teachers representing major constituencies in the school... the leadership team meets every other week for two hours and works on a number of different fronts to lead the change process.”

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

- 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?
- What might be the strengths of the team? What might be some potential growth areas?
- 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?
- What data sets are the team using to know that efforts are having the intended impact?