

# Musts for an OKA+ Principal

THE OKA+ PRINCIPAL MUST:

Be the Instructional Leader who-

## 1. Trusts the creative process to help students succeed.

Examples:

- Provide opportunities for both individual and group creative problem solving. Higher order thinking skills impact testing skills.
- Allow students to have input and ownership in creating permanent displays of important concepts in the school entry, the cafeteria, or other common access areas.

## 2. Uses the A+ Essentials™ to frame the work of a school.

Examples:

- Organize committees by Essentials
- Organize handbooks by Essentials
- Share successes identifying the Essential/s impacted
- Frame challenges identifying the Essential/s impacted
- Do a book or article study focusing on an Essential per week
- Share the A+ Essentials™ with parents and community, then use them to organize communications

## 3. Organizes and uses your infrastructure and resources to support OKA+ practices through the A+ Essentials™.

Examples:

- Develop a schedule providing collaboration time, and offer support for how to use it
- Include Experiential Learning activities in staff meetings
- Include arts experiences in staff meetings

- Conduct “What if...” sessions
- Use the OKA+ Implementation Guide and Reflection Rubric to identify and align professional development needs.

#### 4. Facilitates and participates in the staff’s professional growth.

Examples:

- Take a field trip to another OKA+ school in a different district
- Lead a book study
- Build A+ on Wheels tubs of your own and/or an A+ resource closet
- Lead or procure a PD session on effective, attractive and instructive displays of student work

Help teachers to -

5. **Decrease the dittos.** Any great worksheet can be re-created into a greater activity.
6. **Trade store-bought materials for original student work.**

Examples:

- Make classroom expectations posters
  - Word walls
  - Learning posters and maps
  - Class Agreements poster signed by students
7. **Display what is important.** Essential questions, basic knowledge, key concepts, facts, ideas
  8. **Post learning objectives with displayed student work.** This benefits the entire learning community.
  9. **Enable students to make choices in their work.** This skill requires practice and increases student engagement and ownership.