

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRINCIPALS

Principals recruited to manage and lead schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi must meet or exceed the following qualifications:

- Masters Degree from a recognised University.
- Recognised Teaching Qualification
- Minimum of 5 years continual teaching experience, preferred 7 years plus, including teaching management experience.
- Recognised qualification in Educational Leadership
- Minimum IELTS (Academic) 6.5
- Bilingual Arabic/English preferred

THE ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL

The core purpose of the principal is to provide professional leadership and management for a school, and to promote a secure foundation from which to achieve high standards in all areas of the school's work. Therefore the principal is the leading professional in the school. The principal provides leadership and direction, enabling a shared vision for the school, and ensures that it is managed and organised to meet its aims and targets.

To gain this success a principal must establish high quality education by effectively managing teaching and learning to realise the potential of all staff and students. Principals must establish a culture that promotes excellence, equality and high expectations of all staff and students.

The principal, working with others, is responsible and accountable for:

- evaluating the school's performance to identify the priorities for continuous improvement and raising standards;
- ensuring equality of opportunity for all;
- developing policies and practices;
- ensuring that resources are efficiently and effectively used to achieve the school's aims and objectives and for the day-to-day management, organisation and administration of the school;
- building the leadership capacity within the school;
- engaging all parents and community stakeholders in the education of students.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR PRINCIPALS

The Standards are set in five areas

These five key areas, when taken together, represent the role of the principal.

- Leading Strategically
- Leading Teaching and Learning
- Leading the Organisation
- Leading People
- Leading the Community

The following states the professional standards that are the expected competencies for all principals.

The Professional Standards should be used as part of the process in the continual professional development of Principals.

The Indicators are not an exhaustive list. The indicators are to help clarify what should be happening in schools. They illustrate that the professional standards for Principals are having the expected impact.

LEADING STRATEGICALLY

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Qualities Is Committed To:	
A collaborative school vision of excellence and equity that sets high standards for all	The school has a defined vision which is collaborative guides the teaching and learning process drives a documented strategic plan is communicated to build stakeholder understanding and support
The setting and achieving of ambitious, challenging goals and targets	Evidence of setting and achieving challenging goals and targets: • for all students in the learning environment • for the involvement of all stakeholders
A collaborative school vision of excellence and equity that sets high standards for all	The school has a defined vision which is collaborative guides the teaching and learning process drives a documented strategic plan is communicated to build stakeholder understanding and support
Reflective self-development	 Evidence of a reflective self – development the principal has an individual professional growth plan uses performance feedback mechanisms to inform improvement identifies areas for self development seeks appropriate learning opportunities

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Knowledge Understands:	
ADEC Strategic Plan and how to communicate and implement ADEC's vision	The strategic plan of the school is aligned to ADEC's strategic plan Inks the vision and the objectives of the school with ADEC ensures the community understands the strategic plan shares information with parents and community explains ADEC's vision
Local, national and global educational trends	Evidence of understanding local, national and global educational trends establishes open communication and engages parents and community in the school process connects the school with the local community
Strategic planning processes for school improvement	 Evidence of strategic planning processes for school improvement reads and uses current educational research attends educational conferences and uses the information seeks professional development on strategic planning of school schedules classroom observations includes a professional development plan for teachers includes a communication policy for the community holds purposeful regular meetings with parents
Importance of communication both within and beyond the school	Evidence of strategies for communication both within and beyond the school communicates procedures with all stakeholders uses technology in a variety of ways schedules regular meetings for a variety of purposes

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Knowledge Understands:	
New educational technologies, their uses and impact	Incorporates new technology in teaching and learning
	 continues to update facilities encourages the use of technology inside the classroom to enhance the learning process provides modern technology equipment in the school
Change processes	Evidence to show an understanding of change processes • accepts changes models • takes change step by step • Is aware of current educational trends • establishes a "change" committee which includes all concerned stakeholders
The need for creativity and innovation	

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Skills Demonstrates the ability to:	
Turn strategic thinking into action	Has evidence of a school improvement plan
	 creates a development plan for the school shares goals/targets with staff school plans and action plans are developed and linked to ADEC strategic plan develops school based projects which support learning targets
Inspire, challenge and motivate staff	Provides evidence to inspire, challenge and motivate staff
	 creates motivation chart for school employees builds good relationships evidence of all staff is moving together encourages sharing and support of each other – thinking carefully

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Skills Demonstrates the ability to:	
Model the values and vision of the school	The Principal's actions reflect the values and vision of the school
	 share and include everyone in developing the vision plans, implements and review s the values and vision of the school
Anticipate, lead and manage change	Develops plans which initiate change and predict educational trends
	 makes effective use of change theory principal believes in change and guides and trusts staff deals with complexity and uncertainty identifies obstacles and provides alternatives
Acknowledge achievement and celebrate excellence	Recognizes and rewards excellence recognizes staff and students regularly eg. once a month provides opportunities for recognition of performance in education celebrates achievement eg. gifts, certificates gains recognition of success achieved at the school
Make effective use of school improvement processes	School improvement process reflects how the school: • gathers analyses and interprets data • uses evidence to identify priorities • plans, implements and reviews action needed to improve • shares and learns best practices from other schools

LEADING TEACHING AND LEARNING

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Qualities Is committed to:	
Ensuring all students receive effective teaching and learning	Establishes creative, responsive and effective approaches to teaching and learning • training and assessing the quality of teaching to develop professional teachers • improving student achievement through use of quality data • monitoring and training teachers in new educational methodology/pedagogy • providing a stimulating educational environment • allowing lead teachers to influence by example
The use of valid and reliable assessment practices	Provides evidence of valid and reliable assessment practices using assessment data (EMSA to plan relevant teaching programs using student and parent feedback establishing a school assessment policy to raise student achievement
Flexibility in teaching to meet individual learning needs	 Individual needs of students are met developing IEP for underperforming students as well as gifted & talented students providing special learning opportunities for individual needs useing co operative learning, and differentiated learning
Raising the standards for all in pursuit of excellence	Demonstrates and articulates high expectations for both students and teachers • by setting realistic goals • regularly informing the community of the goals

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Qualities Is committed to: Continuous learning of all school personnel	Provides evidence that all school personnel are continuously learning • provide staff training • research new knowledge and share with others • visit classes and other schools • continuous study • share best practice from other countries

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Knowledge Understands:	
ADEC Curriculum Standards	Shows understanding of ADEC's Curriculum Standards • knows the curriculum standards • leads teacher to understand the curriculum standards • uses the standards knowledgeably when observing, assessing and discussing with teachers • strategic plan addresses needs of all students
Strategies for improving achievement	 Understands strategies for Improving achievement ensures consistent and school-wide focus on student achievement, using data and benchmarks to monitor progress of each student's learning develops a school strategic development plan community and parents are aware and informed of student achievement creates a clear and specific budget which is tied to school aims develops an annual action plan for higher student achievement develops a variety of testing tools to be used for a variety of reasons uses assessment data as a tool to inform teaching and learning which leads to improvement encourages teachers to change strategies to meet student needs

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Knowledge Understands:	
The development of a culture that motivates students to learn	Understands the importance of a learning culture • assists and counsels teachers in instructional improvement • has a policy for awards/celebrations. • plans for assessment • uses exam results to plan for students • develops surveys for assessment of strategies
Models of learning and models of teaching	Understands models of learning and models of teaching Introduces new pedagogical teaching models Introduces different learning styles information
The use of technologies to support teaching and learning	Implements technology to enhance and extend learning experiences for students models the use of technology provides adequate services to maintain technology in the school encourages teacher use of technology in classroom
Strategies for ensuring access, inclusion and diversity	 Understands strategies for access, inclusion and diversity there is a school policy which acknowledges access, inclusion and diversity for all students the need for a variety of approaches to cater for the needs of all students welcomes and includes those students who do not meet the norm Seek assistance to meet the needs of those with health, physical or learning disabilities
Strategies for developing effective teachers	Understands the importance of developing effective teachers • has a planned appraisal process and sets school goals to be achieved • uses continuous professional development through staff meetings • encourages teachers to share resources and knowledge with colleagues

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Skills Demonstrates the ability to:	
Organize the delivery of curriculum, with clearly defined expectations for student learning	Provides evidence of the ability to organize the delivery of curriculum, with clearly defined expectations for student learning • student centered learning • prepares a clear plan to implement the curriculum and review the specific results • teacher record through standardization (standards are already communicated) • principal disciplines on attendance • using brainstorming sessions to develop activity charts for the school (mapping process) • ensures that the policies and systems align to support learning
Access, analyze and interpret student data	Accesses, analyzes and interprets information • n depth analysis of student results • involves staff in the analysis and interpretation of data • distributes analysis to all staff • various assessments are used • survey for students and parents feedback • there is a data base of current and previous student analysis • there is an action plan for students based on the data analysis
Monitor and evaluate teacher performance	 Teachers are appraised building teachers' commitment to the learning process a schedule of classroom visits is delivered and feedback follows evaluates and reviews classroom practices promotes improvement strategies through action plans establishes timelines and targets for staff growth and professional learning there is an improvement plan for each area in the school

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Skills Demonstrates the ability to: Acknowledge excellence and challenges poor performance	Acknowledges excellence and challenges underperformance of staff
	 ensures a culture of challenge and support in which all staff can achieve success and become engaged in their own learning there is an individual professional growth plan for all staff principal is a role model plans a clear process of acknowledgement and challenge for staff – an appraisal process policy
Models of behavior and attendance management	Implements strategies which engages students in high standards of behavior, motivation and attendance • has behavior/attendance policy, shares it and gives responsibility to parents



LEADING THE ORGANISATION

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Qualities Is committed to: Shared leadership, management and decision-making	Provides teachers and students opportunities to lead • establishes effective working groups • organises groups from staff parents and students (lead teachers, co coordinators, student council, parent council) • provides working groups with motivation and support. • delegates decision making to the working groups. • encourages and provides time for all groups to communicate in the organisation • guides good financial management • distributes leadership roles and responsibilities according to working groups competency • monitors group feedback
The equitable management of staff resources	Provides stakeholders roles in the decision-making process that promotes a culture of participation, responsibility and ownership • Through encouragement and acknowledgement of contributions • Sets clear goals and guidelines for all groups • Resources are reviewed to improve the quality of education for all students
A culture that promotes self motivation	Principal models the culture and implements an evaluation system that provides for the professional growth of all personnel through • a culture of team work and sharing • connection to community, colleagues, sponsors and parents council to share in school projects • staff goal setting at the beginning of each year • reviewing the goal setting twice annually

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Qualities Is committed to:	
Provision of a safe, secure and healthy school environment	Provides a safe, secure and healthy school environment by • developing policies, clear and fair so everyone understands • encouraging and acknowledging all members of the school community • creating a School Health and Safety team to oversee the school
Collaboration with others in order to strengthen the school organizational capacity	Shows collaboration with others in order to strengthen the school organizational capacity by • planning and participating in staff team building • working beside all groups in the school • feeding back to each group after reading records of all meetings

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Knowledge Understands:	
ADEC organisational structure	Shows an understanding of ADEC's organizational structure • communicates using the correct channels
The importance of two-way communications processes	 Communicates effectively with ADEC reads emails/letters/faxes daily, and answers all messages
Principles and models of school self- evaluation	Provides evidence of models of self evaluation and teacher performance • encourages the use of continuous self evaluation and feedback for teachers • prepares a plan for the development of teachers • principal uses a variety of self reflection models

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Knowledge Understands:	
Principles and strategies to enhance school improvement	 Enhances school improvement by evidence based plans, policies and procedures studying and understanding standards for teachers reads and reflects on a variety of plans, policies and procedures for school use
Planning and implementing change	 Provides evidence of planning and implementing change encourages a innovative curriculum plan to be implemented by teachers and students effectively promotes change to the school community seeks information from key groups (students, parents, teachers) publicizes policies
Informed decision-making	 Provides evidence of informed decision-making ses external reports i.e. PENTA, EMSA to make school based decisions reviews educational initiatives from other parts of the world
Financial planning and budget management	Provides evidence of sound financial planning and budget management • management systems, processes and structures work effectively • uses and intergrates a range of technologies effectively and efficiently to manage the school

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Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Skills Demonstrates ability to:	
Manage finances and human and physical resources	 Manages the school's finances and human resources effectively and efficiently the school has a plan to manage budget plans the budget annually writes and implements a school improvement plan (S.I.P.) consults with staff regarding their needs implements successful performance review processes with all staff ensures that the range, quality and use of resources is monitored shows that sustainable policies and procedures have been established for staff, students and parents in all areas of school life regularly revies policies and records review date
Establish and sustain policies and procedures	Manages and organizes the school environment effectively and efficiently to ensure that it meets the needs of the curriculum and health and safety requirements • creates teams e.g. finance and then holds the teams accountable • creates and follows the job description of all staff
Delegate responsibilities effectively	Manages work load effectively to achieve visions and goals for the school • assigns responsibilities to others to assist in running the school effectively • delegates leadership roles in the school • communicates clear timelines for all to follow • organises and prioritises tasks
Anticipate and solve problems	 Anticipates and solves problems by regularly reflecting on school events and daily procedures planning effectively using risk analysis strategies

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Skills Demonstrates ability to:	
Think creatively and communicate effectively	Provides evidence of creative thinking and effective communication • creates and publishes unique vision and mission statements that promote learning • thinks of alternative strategies and actions to enhance the school • communicates to staff and school community in many ways
Build a school culture that promotes learning	Provides evidence that the school culture promotes learning • supports and deploys staff appropriately • designs job descriptions for all school staff • writes down expectations for the students' learning • analyses students results which leads to evaluating teachers



LEADING PEOPLE

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Qualities Is committed to:	
Developing a shared purpose and direction for the school	Shared vision communicated to staff, students and community
	open door policy allows all to be involved in committees
Building and sustaining effective teams	Policies and procedures encourage development of effective teams across and within the school
	 encourages and creates a system where teachers are given the opportunity to work in groups with a specific goal
Shared leadership	Mentors qualified professional staff who are capable of fulfilling assigned roles and responsibilities
	uses the knowledge and skills of staff to enhance the work of the school
Facilitating productive and positive work relationships	Evidence of facilitating productive and positive work relationships
	provides a culture that enables regular opportunities for professional dialogue
Rigorous professional development for self and staff	Leads, facilitates and actively participates in continual professional development programmes
	 professional development for teachers occurs on a regular basis attends and/or delivers a relevant professional development programs

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Knowledge Understands:	
Interpersonal relationships and their value in the school environment	Has staff with diverse skills strategically placed in flexible teams for short and long term projects • regular staff feedback and input provides updated information on staff skill sets • communicates change to the stakeholders
Adult learning and models of continual professional development	Shows an understanding of adult learning and models of continual professional development
How to promote individual and team development	Shows an understanding of how to promote individual and team development • promotes networking opportunities globally & locally • performance development plans for the staff demonstrate the importance of professional growth
Ways to build and sustain a learning community	Evidence is present which indicates how to build and sustain a learning community • quality educational performance is supported by documented evidence
How to sustain school improvement	 Develops effective staff induction, professional development and performance review for all promotes a sense of pride within the school and throughout the community survey for parents about the performance of the school is used to support targeted professional development continuous monitoring and evaluating of the educational process
Impact of change on people and schools	Evidence is present which indicates that change is understood and accepted • develops individual professional development plans • builds a system of motivational opportunities • all staff actively involved in pd programs • conflict resolution processes in place and used when required • professional development is ongoing and rigorous in both delivery and follow-through

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Skills Demonstrates the ability to:	
Use conflict resolution strategies effectively	 Treats people fairly, equitably, with dignity and respect shows fairness and respect when dealing with people effective policies guide required actions in conflict situations sets up procedures to deal with conflicts within the school in order to resolve any problems leads meetings which follow procedures and help resolve the problems understands major reasons for the problem and is able to work with school based teams to resolve concerns
Self-initiate and be autonomous	Develops and maintains a culture of high expectations for self and others
Motivate, develop and empower individuals and teams	Delegates meaningful tasks to individuals and teams resulting in effective planning and results • acknowledges responsibilities and celebrates achievements of individuals and teams • facilitates a team approach to lead people to change and improve the school • encourages positive performance and has procedures in place to avoid negative performance
Collaborate and use networking abilities within the school and community	Builds a collaborative learning culture within the school and actively engages with other schools to build effective learning communities • enhances the profile of the school in the community • involves parents in school planning • involves community and organisations in school planning

Indicators (with some examples)
Develops schools policies and procedures to recognise/notice good work school has a motivation policy that has been
implemented • gives feedback/reports in confidence
 Is able to lead change ensures people understand change, the need for change and the process of change plans for improvements creates a school development plan update



LEADING THE COMMUNITY

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Qualities Is committed to:	
Maintaining effective communication with all stakeholders	Provides information about students, their performance, and school effectiveness that is meaningful and useful to stakeholders • prepares and holds regular meetings for the parents • reports to parents on student achievements • parent council – have regular meetings • maintains effective communication e.g. e- mail/SMS, phone calls etc • regular meetings for all parents - updated on website - invitation to school events - celebration card: eg. Eid Mubarak card
Collaboration with people within the school community	Fosters collaboration with community stakeholders to support student learning • promotes understanding community to help solve problems • participates in community events • uses parents' skills and talents: e.g. Careers evening
Developing productive partnerships with external agencies, industry and commerce	Provides evidence of productive partnerships with external agencies, industry and commerce • establishes connections • establishes transparency at school level to enhance communication and development • Seeks opportunities for joint project and/or sponsorship
Liaise with agencies, organisations and ministries for well-being of students and families	Liaises with agencies, organizations and ministries for well-being of students and families • effective transition of students between grades, cycles and other institutions

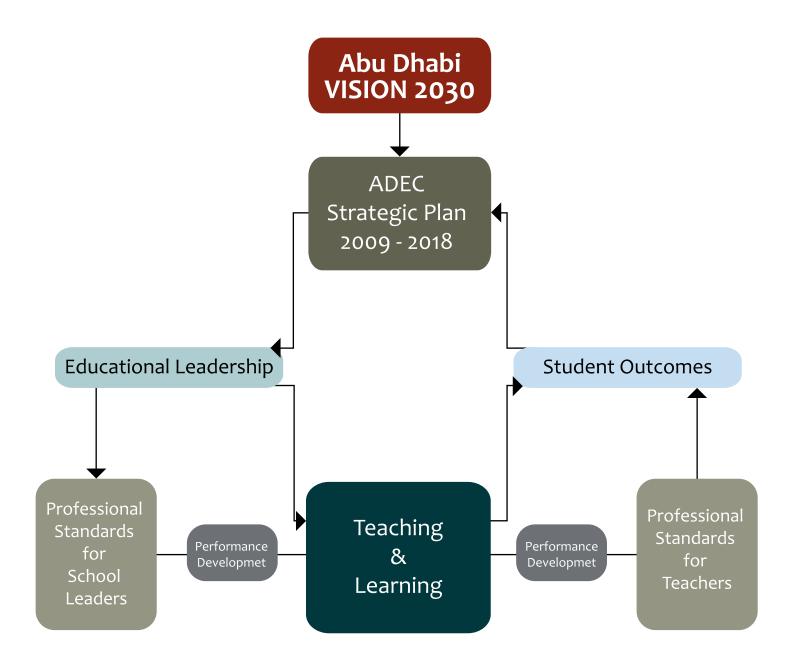
Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Qualities Is committed to:	
Involvement of parents in support of the school	 Parents are involved in supporting the school establishes open and honest communication with wider community develops the school vision, student learning and project initiatives parents are involve in school programs eg. in classroom support, libraries, career evenings
Incorporating national heritage and culture into the fabric of the school	Builds a school culture which reflects the rich national heritage of the community community awareness campaigns exhibition of traditional games, hobbies etc creates a programs that guild national heritage – holds workshops and creates teams cultural examples in the curriculum celebrates National Day all subjects address heritage in the curriculum plan



Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Knowledge Understands:	
The importance of current issues and trends in education	The school introduces the community to current issues and trends in education conferences workshops newsletters parent councils community debates focus groups etc principal leads professional development
The benefit of using local community resources	A wide range of community-based learning experiences are evident and maintains a database of contacts and opportunities within the wider community • connects the school with home and communities • shares information • learning experiences for students are linked into and integrated with the wider community • contacts the communities – visits and shares information
Work of agencies, organizations and ministries and the opportunities for collaboration	Accesses services provided by other organisations and ministries and demonstrates leadership and communication with the community as ambassador and employee of ADEC • seeks sponsors and support for the school • encourages lectures/workshops from community groups • students regularly have field trips • invites people from different organizations - educational trips, workshops/lectures • organises trips for the local community

Leadership Competencies	Indicators (with some examples)
Professional Skills Demonstrates the ability to:	
Form valuable community partnerships to support the school	 Connecting the school with the community develops a good reputation so that the school can secure community support involves parents at all levels and the school achieves transparency through its work develops a database of organizations or professionals who can assist students shares ideas and experiences with other schools and community
Listen, reflect upon and act upon community feedback	Acts upon community feedback Gather feedback from parents and community on a regular basis
Use strategies which encourage parents to participate and support their student's learning	Partnerships with parents are positive and open, encouraging dialogue and participation in the education of all students
	 handbook for parents with information on curriculum, assessment etc. invitations to parents and the community to participate in school programmes and events includes parents and organizations in school celebrations and events





The Framework for Leadership in Schools

