



National Educational Leadership  
Preparation (NELP) Program  
Recognition Standards

**Building Level**

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# NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PREPARATION (NELP) PROGRAM STANDARDS

## Building Level

The NELP building-level standards were designed for institutions undergoing Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation and NELP program review . The NELP building-level standards are appropriate for advanced programs at the master, specialist, or doctoral level that prepare assistant principals, principals, curriculum directors, supervisors, and other education leaders in a school building environment.

The NELP building-level standards are provided by the **National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) Specialized Professional Association (SPA)**, sponsored by the National Policy Board for Educational Administration (NPBEA).

Upon approval by the CAEP SPA Standards Committee, a full copy of the NELP building-level standards can be obtained at [www.npbea.org](http://www.npbea.org).

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## Standard 1: Mission, Vision, and Improvement

Candidates who successfully complete a building-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to collaboratively lead, design, and implement a school mission, vision, and process for continuous improvement that reflects a core set of values and priorities that include data use, technology, equity, diversity, digital citizenship, and community.

**Component 1.1** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, develop, and communicate a school mission and vision designed to reflect a core set of values and priorities that include data use, technology, equity, diversity, digital citizenship, and community.

**Component 1.2** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to lead improvement processes that include data use, design, implementation, and evaluation.

### RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR STANDARD 1:

Evidence presented in Appendix 3 in support of standard 1 confirms that a building-level education leader must have the knowledge and skills to promote the success of every student through collaboratively leading, designing, and implementing a school mission, vision, and process for continuous improvement that reflects a core set of values and priorities. This includes knowledge of how to evaluate, design, and communicate a district mission and vision that reflects a core set of values and priorities and to lead improvement processes that include evaluation, design, and implementation. This research evidence was used to inform the development of standard 1 and components 1.1 and 1.2.

## Standard 2: Ethics and Professional Norms

Candidates who successfully complete a building-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to understand and demonstrate the capacity to advocate for ethical decisions and cultivate and enact professional norms.

**Component 2.1** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to reflect on, communicate about, cultivate, and model professional dispositions and norms (i.e., fairness, integrity, transparency, trust, digital citizenship, collaboration, perseverance, reflection, lifelong learning) that support the educational success and well-being of each student and adult.

**Component 2.2** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, communicate about, and advocate for ethical and legal decisions.

**Component 2.3** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to model ethical behavior in their personal conduct and relationships and to cultivate ethical behavior in others.

### RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR STANDARD 2:

Evidence presented in Appendix 3 in support of standard 2 confirms that a building-level education leader must have the knowledge and skills to promote the success of every student through advocating for ethical decisions and cultivating and enacting professional norms. This includes the capacity to reflect on, communicate about, cultivate, and enact professional norms and evaluate and advocate for ethical and legal decisions. It also includes the capacity to model ethical behavior in their personal conduct and relationships and to cultivate ethical behavior in others. This research evidence was used to inform the development of standard 2 and components 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3.

## Standard 3: Equity, Inclusiveness, and Cultural Responsiveness

Candidates who successfully complete a building-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to develop and maintain a supportive, equitable, culturally responsive, and inclusive school culture.

**Component 3.1** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to use data to evaluate, design, cultivate, and advocate for a supportive and inclusive school culture.

**Component 3.2** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for equitable access to educational resources, technologies, and opportunities that support the educational success and well-being of each student.

**Component 3.3** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for equitable, inclusive, and culturally responsive instruction and behavior support practices among teachers and staff.

### RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR STANDARD 3:

Evidence presented in Appendix 3 in support of standard 3 confirms that a building-level education leader must have the knowledge and skills to promote the success of every student through developing and maintaining a supportive, equitable, responsive, and inclusive school culture. This includes the capacity to evaluate, cultivate, and advocate for a supportive and inclusive school culture; equitable access to educational resources, procedures, and opportunities; and equitable instructional and behavior support practices among teachers and staff. This research evidence was used to inform the development of standard 3 and components 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3.

## Standard 4: Learning and Instruction

Candidates who successfully complete a building-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to evaluate, develop, and implement coherent systems of curriculum, instruction, data systems, supports, and assessment.

**Component 4.1** Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality, technology-rich curricula programs and other supports for academic and non-academic student programs.

**Component 4.2** Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement high-quality and equitable academic and non-academic instructional practices, resources, technologies, and services that support equity, digital literacy, and the school's academic and non-academic systems.

**Component 4.3** Program completers understand and can demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement formal and informal culturally responsive and accessible assessments that support data-informed instructional improvement and student learning and well-being.

**Component 4.4** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively evaluate, develop, and implement the school's curriculum, instruction, technology, data systems, and assessment practices in a coherent, equitable, and systematic manner.

### RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR STANDARD 4:

Evidence presented in Appendix 3 in support of standard 4 confirms that a building-level education leader must have the knowledge and skills to promote the success of every student through evaluating, developing, and implementing coherent systems of curriculum, instruction, supports, and assessment. This includes the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement academic and non-academic student programs and academic and non-academic instructional practices, resources, and services that support the needs of each student. It also includes the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement formal and informal assessments that support instructional improvement and student learning and well-being and to evaluate, develop, and implement the school's curriculum, instruction, and assessment practices in a coherent and systematic manner. This research evidence was used to inform the development of standard 4 and components 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4.

## Standard 5: Community and External Leadership

Candidates who successfully complete a building-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to engage families, community, and school personnel in order to strengthen student learning, support school improvement, and advocate for the needs of their school and community.

**Component 5.1** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage diverse families in strengthening student learning in and out of school.

**Component 5.2** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to collaboratively engage and cultivate relationships with diverse community members, partners, and other constituencies for the benefit of school improvement and student development.

**Component 5.3** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to communicate through oral, written, and digital means within the larger organizational, community, and political contexts when advocating for the needs of their school and community.

### RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR STANDARD 5:

Evidence presented in Appendix 3 in support of standard 5 confirms that a building-level education leader must have the knowledge and skills to promote the success of every student through engaging families, community, and school personnel in order to strengthen student learning, support school improvement, and advocate for the needs of their school and community. This includes the capacity to engage families in strengthening student learning in and out of school; to engage community members, partners, and other constituencies for the benefit of school improvement and student development; and to engage the larger organizational and policy context to advocate for the needs of their school and community. This research evidence was used to inform the development of standard 5 and components 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3.



## Standard 6: Operations and Management

Candidates who successfully complete a building-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to improve management, communication, technology, school-level governance, and operation systems to develop and improve data-informed and equitable school resource plans and to apply laws, policies, and regulations.

**Component 6.1** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement management, communication, technology, school-level governance, and operation systems that support each student’s learning needs and promote the mission and vision of the school.

**Component 6.2** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to evaluate, develop, and advocate for a data-informed and equitable resourcing plan that supports school improvement and student development.

**Component 6.3** Program completers understand and demonstrate the capacity to reflectively evaluate, communicate about, and implement laws, rights, policies, and regulations to promote student and adult success and well-being.

### RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR STANDARD 6:

Evidence presented in Appendix 3 in support of standard 6 confirms that a building-level education leader must have the knowledge and skills to promote the success of every student through improving management, communication, technology, school-level governance, and operation systems; developing and improving school resource plans; and applying laws, policies, and regulations. This includes the capacity to improve management, communication, technology, school-level governance, and operation systems that support each student’s learning needs and promote the mission and vision of the school; to develop and improve a resourcing plan for the benefit of school improvement and student development; and to apply laws, rights, policies, and regulations to promote student and adult success. This research evidence was used to inform the development of standard 6 and components 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3.

## Standard 7: Building Professional Capacity

Candidates who successfully complete a building-level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capacity to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to build the school's professional capacity, engage staff in the development of a collaborative professional culture, and improve systems of staff supervision, evaluation, support, and professional learning.

**Component 7.1** Program completers understand and have the capacity to collaboratively develop the school's professional capacity through engagement in recruiting, selecting, and hiring staff.

**Component 7.2** Program completers understand and have the capacity to develop and engage staff in a collaborative professional culture designed to promote school improvement, teacher retention, and the success and well-being of each student and adult in the school.

**Component 7.3** Program completers understand and have the capacity to personally engage in, as well as collaboratively engage school staff in, professional learning designed to promote reflection, cultural responsiveness, distributed leadership, digital literacy, school improvement, and student success.

**Component 7.4** Program completers understand and have the capacity to evaluate, develop, and implement systems of supervision, support, and evaluation designed to promote school improvement and student success.

### RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR STANDARD 7:

Evidence presented in Appendix 3 in support of standard 7 confirms that a building-level education leader must have the knowledge and skills to promote the success of every student through engaging staff in the development of a collaborative professional culture, building the school's professional capacity, and improving systems of staff supervision, evaluation, support, and professional learning. This includes building professional capacity through engagement in recruitment, selection, and hiring. It also includes the capacity to improve and engage staff in a collaborative professional culture, engage staff in professional learning, and improve systems of supervision, support, and evaluation that promote school improvement and student success. This research evidence was used to inform the development of standard 7 and components 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4.

## Standard 8: Internship

Candidates successfully complete an internship under the supervision of knowledgeable, expert practitioners that engages candidates in multiple and diverse school settings and provides candidates with coherent, authentic, and sustained opportunities to synthesize and apply the knowledge and skills identified in NELP standards 1–7 in ways that approximate the full range of responsibilities required of building-level leaders and enable them to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult in their school.

### Component 8.1

Candidates are provided a variety of coherent, authentic field and/or clinical internship experiences within multiple school environments that afford opportunities to interact with stakeholders, synthesize and apply the content knowledge, and develop and refine the professional skills articulated in each of the components included in NELP building-level program standards 1–7.

### Component 8.2

Candidates are provided a minimum of six months of concentrated (10–15 hours per week) internship or clinical experiences that include authentic leadership activities within a school setting.

### Component 8.3

Candidates are provided a mentor who has demonstrated effectiveness as an educational leader within a building setting; is present for a significant portion of the internship; is selected collaboratively by the intern, a representative of the school and/or district, and program faculty; and has received training from the supervising institution.

### RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR STANDARD 8:

Evidence presented in Appendix 3 in support of standard 8 confirms that effective internships include the use of expert practitioners as supervisors who engage candidates in multiple and diverse school settings and provide coherent, authentic, and sustained opportunities to synthesize and apply the knowledge and skills identified in NELP standards 1–7 in ways that approximate the full range of responsibilities required of building-level leaders and enable them to promote the current and future success and well-being of each student and adult in their school. This research evidence was used to inform the development of standard 8 and components 8.1, 8.2, and 8.3.



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