

What Makes a Quality Public School?

A quality public school prepares all students to succeed. Experts agree that quality public schools share the following characteristics:

❑ College- and career-readiness

A quality public school must graduate students from high school who are prepared for college and a career.

❑ High expectations for every student

Quality public schools recognize that all students can learn, and provide the tools, support and connections students need to reach their full potential.

❑ Parent and community support

Parents and community members are actively engaged in supporting their schools in constructive ways. They hold school officials and themselves accountable for results.

❑ Qualified teachers in every classroom

Highly qualified teachers who benefit from continuous professional development strengthen teaching and learning.

❑ Rigorous curriculum and fair assessments

A rigorous instructional program tied to high standards builds student knowledge and strengthens critical thinking skills, while fair assessments monitor progress and truly measure what students know and can do.

❑ Sufficient resources that help all students achieve

Student achievement is the measure of school success. Resources and teaching strategies are tied to this goal at quality public schools.

❑ Safe, healthy and supportive learning environment

Safe, sound facilities and student enrichment activities create an environment where students can learn and grow.

❑ Schools and classrooms equipped for teaching and learning

Students and staff have access to timely, relevant resources including up-to-date textbooks and current technology.

❑ Strong school leadership

Principals are empowered to lead and make informed decisions that promote learning at the school level.