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.