

Questions to Ask During a School Visit

These questions will help form a solid content base for providing school-visit-based feedback to direct-report principals.

Classroom Observations

How would you describe the instructional practices happening in the classrooms we just observed?

What feedback would you give this teacher (for example, on lesson design, learning targets, level of questions, rigor of the activity and applied learning, connection to standards, and classroom management)?

What evidence of student engagement did you notice?

What makes students successful in this classroom? What does this classroom assessment data look like?

REPRODUCIBLE

What did you notice about how the teacher provided differentiated support for student learning within their lesson structure?

How did this teacher provide timely and meaningful feedback to students on their progress?

How do the students track their own student learning in this classroom? Schoolwide?

Are there any specific examples of innovative teaching methods we observed?

Collaborative Teams

How are teachers collaborating within their grade-level or content-area teams?

What evidence do you have of teachers engaging in data analysis and using that data to inform instruction?

How do collaborative teams use data to measure progress toward team goals?

How do teacher teams build shared knowledge around state standards and ensure that the curriculum is aligned with the outcomes of the state standards?

What process do you have in place for teachers to develop curriculum maps for each course or grade-level prioritized standards?

What processes and protocols are in place to support teacher teams in unpacking standards?

How do teacher teams use evidence of student learning to develop lesson plans, implement reteaching strategies, and strengthen curricular resources?

How is student progress monitored?

What systems and structures are used to ensure students make progress, and who is responsible?

How do students exit intervention once learning gaps are closed?

Feedback

How do you engage teachers in individual conversations about student progress to improve teachers' instructional practice?

What structures have you created to receive feedback?

Professional Development

What's your school's professional development plan this school year?

What structures and processes are in place to support teachers' professional growth?

What do you need to move this work forward?

School Culture

What strategies are in place to promote a positive and inclusive school culture?

How are you fostering strong relationships with students and families?

What student-led initiatives or projects are taking place this school year that stand out?

In what ways are students given opportunities to take on leadership roles or voice their opinions?

How is student feedback incorporated into school initiatives?

What evidence is displayed in your hallways to create a safe, inclusive, warm, and welcoming environment?

What evidence outside of school grounds helps promote a safe and welcoming environment?

Interventions and Differentiated Instruction

How are teachers differentiating instruction to meet the diverse needs of students?

What does scaffolded instruction look like in your school?

What strategies are in place to ensure all students are receiving targeted support and interventions? Where is this documented?

Celebrations

What was a recent school celebration?

How do you celebrate students?

How do you celebrate staff?