

	13 Things to Consider BEFORE Beginning the EE: STW Application Process, continued	We're There	We're Not Yet There
8	<p>The school has an operational and formalized structure of distributed leadership that embraces a clear and current vision and mission for the school. Groups meet independently and regularly. They have a clearly articulated system of norms, a collaborative purpose, accountability measures, communication protocols, and the ability and the motivation to make meaningful decisions.</p> <p>Explicitly, the school leadership is not just the administration or a small group of teachers, nor is it "all the teachers buying in to top-down decisions." It is an organized system of learners and leaders.</p>		
9	<p>The school is an integral part of the community. It seeks support from the community (universities, colleges, businesses, etc.) and provides support to the community in terms of student volunteer services, facilities, and joint projects.</p>		
10	<p>The master schedule of the school is a reflection of students' needs and school mission. It is flexible and innovative in providing time and opportunity for coherent, rigorous, standards-based instruction for all students within the school day. It provides students with curricular opportunities in core subjects, targeted intervention opportunities, exploratory courses, and physical education. It provides common planning time for teacher teams in the school to work collaboratively on the behalf of their students. It creates smaller, closer learning communities for students.</p> <p>Explicitly the master schedule gives priority to students' needs over adults' needs.</p>		
11	<p>Curriculum, instruction, school-wide strategies, assignments, homework, assessment, grading and reporting, enrichment projects and activities (i.e. History Day, Science Fair, field trips) in each subject area are inclusive, consistent, and coherent across the school.</p> <p>Explicitly, each and every student has equal access, opportunity, and challenge in any classroom to which they are assigned.</p>		
12	<p>Most (if not all) teachers regularly practice a variety of research-based instructional and assessment strategies (e.g., differentiated instruction, flexible grouping, hands-on learning, etc.), guided by up to-date, standards-based curricula and systematic data collection and analysis, that engage and challenge every student in their classroom.</p>		
13	<p>The school is a community of learners, constantly working together to refine curriculum, improve classroom instruction, create a positive climate/culture, and meet the academic and personal needs of all students and all staff.</p> <p>Explicitly, the school is a vibrant learning community committed to, and engaged in, continuous improvement and personal growth.</p>		