

Foreword

The No Child Left Behind Act opened a new chapter in U.S. education. The value of its provisions has sparked lively debate for the past several years, but an undisputable reality of the law is the unwavering focus on *schoolwide* success. It's no longer enough to expect that only particular demographics—usually in particular classes—will achieve. Rather, high achievement must become the expectation of *every* student in *every* classroom. Only the principal's purview is sufficiently broad to ensure such schoolwide success.

And so there's never been a better time to consider, as Sandy Harris does in this book, the practices that make principals effective. Now more than ever, what the principal does matters. While much of the literature and research on principal effectiveness over the past decade has offered a bird's-eye view of principal practice, Harris lets us see principal practice at ground level and through the eyes of those who fight the fight every day.

The practices highlighted in this book, each possessed of its own stand-alone value, reflect the wide range of responsibilities secondary school principals assume daily, and the volume of tasks can be enough—sadly, often *is* enough—to deter good candidates from entering the profession. Yet, amid an avalanche of tasks, these principals' voices reveal a fulfillment that eclipses any frustration. We're grateful for the contributions these men and women make each day in their work to their schools and to the profession of the principalship.

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