

Quality Schooling Framework Introduction Video

Welcome to the Quality Schooling Framework website! The California Department of Education developed the Quality Schooling Framework to assist educators as they work to ensure that the students in their schools are learning and thriving.

The Quality Schooling Framework reflects a change in the way we look at schooling in California.

In the past, schooling was based on a compliance model. As you can see in this diagram, schools and districts were required to respond to a set of performance requirements for funding.

Today, the California Department of Education is committed to a model in which schools and districts are empowered to adopt and enact policies and programs that best suit their local needs to support student success in their local communities.

Unlike past supports, the Quality Schooling Framework (QSF) is not a checklist of requirements or mandated activities. Instead, you can think of it as a map and a compass to help you focus on your destination and plan your route to student success. It is a resource for all schools.

The QSF identifies ten elements that, when integrated, support students learning and thriving. These elements are drawn from extensive research on the characteristics of effective schooling—they represent the “what” of quality schooling. The QSF website describes each of the elements and includes supportive resources such as tools for planning and measuring QSF elements. The QSF also includes a series of application videos and other resources to help you determine “how” you will integrate these elements in your school.

On the QSF website, all students are at the center of all discussions about quality schooling. To support all students, the QSF recommends that ten elements be addressed in an integrated way. These elements include Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, Equity, Teachers, Family & Community Engagement, Leaders, Professional Learning,

Culture & Climate, and Resource Alignment. As you consider these elements in your own schools, we encourage you to start with students at the center of your discussions.

As you use the QSF as a resource, begin by reviewing the “Students Learning & Thriving” section on this website and collaborating with your stakeholders to define, more specifically, what ‘Students Learning & Thriving’ means to your community. Ultimately, your school’s planning activities should be based on this definition.

Next, look to the ‘Characteristics’ section of elements on this site as you work to identify pressing needs and determine which elements matter most in your local context. Then, work to identify and prioritize specific outcomes and indicators for success in your school or district. Even though all of the QSF elements are important, students will be poorly served if too many initiatives lead to incomplete or fragmented implementation or to change fatigue. Determine and sustain your focus and remember the QSF elements should be viewed as a general roadmap.

To help you in your planning and implementation process and practices, this next section of the QSF site includes several videos with resources.

These videos provide practical strategies for strengthening elements of the QSF in your local context. For example, our next video in this series focuses on concrete leadership practices that support effective planning and implementation. You’ll also find videos on topics such as organizational assessments, planning, stakeholder engagement, and implementation models and practices. Each video is accompanied by relevant resources to help you explore these topics in more depth.

Thank you for viewing this introduction to the Quality Schooling Framework. We encourage you to apply and share these resources with your school and districts stakeholders as you work to ensure that all students in your community learn and thrive.