

## 4 industry trends and insights to help you stay on top of the field.

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### Everyone needs a win

Education has had a few tough years.

The good news is administrators, educators, communities, parents, and politicians are working hard to make improvements.

To keep momentum moving, it's important to take time to celebrate wins – all the things going right.

A former educator who dedicates an entire website and a cadre of material on tips for the “teach”, received some feedback that sometimes recommendations can come across as “you’re not doing enough”.

So, a suggestion for administrators from her blog:

*“So, this is my ask of you as an administrator: Choose 10 teachers on your staff and make it a goal to give each of them one piece of specific, positive feedback this week. For some, you might only need to think about what you’ve noticed during your past observations of them. For others, you might need to arrange a short classroom visit — make sure the teacher knows ahead of time that you will ONLY be looking for things to compliment them on. Even better would be to ask them to choose a time when they’re doing something they think you’d like to see.*”

[Read entire blog here](#)

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### What Are Superintendents Asking?

EAB, a consulting firm specializing in education, fields questions from superintendents and principals throughout the year.

Annually they aggregate the hottest topics.

We poured through the learnings, and noted some interesting trends and insights:

- An increase in questions about grading policies, as k12 schools struggle to understand learning loss.
- For those questions around people management, the volume of questions on professional development and recruitment and retention

were tied (22% of all questions). This indicates that professional development is still top of mind, even with teacher and sub gaps being a pressing problem.

- The number of questions on DEI decreased, but EAB notes “Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) continues to be top-of-mind for district leaders, though we received fewer questions on DEI than in 2020 and 2021, as many district leaders now have DEI plans in place in 2023.” (<https://eab.com/resources/blog/k-12-education-blog/most-in-demand-topics-for-district-leaders/>)

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## **Superintendent Awards**

Superintendent of the Year Awards have just been released.

One of the key themes to success?

Good school board governance.

Governance plays a key role in ensuring that superintendents and school boards operate collaboratively for the most positive impact on classrooms and students.

We’ve assembled governance best practices from reports and writings from Deloitte, Littleford and Associates, SuperEval, and Hanover Research.

- Always start with a mission. Determine what structure size and make up best serve that mission.
- There are numerous constituents so role clarity is key ( boards are not hands on and operational)
- Set annual clear measurable goals – and measure frequently to track progress
- Be discerning and ensure all programs and activities are aligned to the mission
- Communicate frequently, both inside and outside of formal official settings
- Create intentional, specific methods to engage and collaborate with the community.

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## **Emotional intelligence in Education**

Much has been written about the importance of emotional intelligence in change management, leadership, building consensus and navigating

challenges.

Sound like a familiar list of your life the last several years?

EdWeek research found that 69% of teachers say district level staff demonstrate empathy, a critical component of E.I.

Interested in making some improvements in that area?

Check out Emotional Intelligence 2.0 by Travis Bradberry and Jean Greaves. This book is often regarded as the best emotional intelligence book available today.

[Read a Short Book Review Here](#)

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