Successful Schools for Young Adolescents

16 Characteristics

**Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment**
- Educators value young adolescents and are prepared to teach them. **Value Young Adolescents**
- Students and teachers are engaged in active, purposeful learning. **Active Learning**
- Curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and relevant. **Challenging Curriculum**
- Educators use multiple learning and teaching approaches. **Multiple Learning Approaches**
- Varied and ongoing assessments advance learning as well as measure it. **Varied Assessments**

**Leadership and Organization**
- A shared vision developed by all stakeholders guides every decision. **Shared Vision**
- Leaders are committed to and knowledgeable about this age group, educational research, and best practices. **Committed Leaders**
- Leaders demonstrate courage and collaboration. **Courageous & Collaborative Leaders**
- Ongoing professional development reflects best educational practices. **Professional Development**
- Organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships. **Organizational Structures**

**Culture and Community**
- The school environment is inviting, safe, inclusive, and supportive of all. **School Environment**
- Every student’s academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate. **Adult Advocate**
- Comprehensive guidance and support services meet the needs of young adolescents. **Guidance Services**
- Health and wellness are supported in curricula, school-wide programs, and related policies. **Health & Wellness**
- The school actively involves families in the education of their children. **Family Involvement**
- The school includes community and business partners. **Community & Business**

**Essential Attributes**

- An education for young adolescents must be
  - Developmentally Responsive using the nature of young adolescents as the foundation on which all decisions are made.
  - Challenging recognizing that every student can learn and everyone is held to high expectations.
  - Empowering providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to take control of their lives.
  - Equitable advocating for every student’s right to learn and providing challenging and relevant learning opportunities.

This chart is based on *This We Believe: Keys to Educating Young Adolescents* (AMLE/NMSA, 2010). For more information visit us at, www.amle.org/twb