



Comparison of *This We Believe* (2010) with *The Successful Middle School* (2021)

Previously 4 Essential Attributes, now 5.

Previously 16 Characteristics, now 18.

- Moved part of one from Curriculum, Integration, Assessment area to Culture and Community (value young adolescents)
- Combined multiple learning and teaching approaches and active, purposeful learning into one characteristic about instruction.
- Added 2 new characteristics: one about school safety, one about school policies and practices

This list is organized by the sequence of areas and characteristics in the new edition.

This We Believe (2010)	The Successful Middle School (2021)
Essential Attributes	Essential Attributes
<p><i>Developmentally Responsive</i> Using the nature of young adolescents as the foundation on which all decisions are made</p>	<p><i>Responsive</i> <i>Using the distinctive nature and identities of young adolescents as the foundation upon which all decisions about school are made.</i></p>
<p><i>Challenging</i> Recognizing that every student can learn and everyone is held to high expectations</p>	<p><i>Challenging</i> <i>Cultivating high expectations and advancing learning for every member of the school community.</i></p>
<p><i>Empowering</i> Providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to take control of their lives</p>	<p><i>Empowering</i> <i>Facilitating environments in which students take responsibility for their own learning and contribute positively to the world around them.</i></p>
<p><i>Equitable</i> Advocating for every student’s right to learn and providing challenges and relevant learning opportunities</p>	<p><i>Equitable</i> <i>Providing socially just learning opportunities and environments for every student.</i></p>
	<p><i>NEW - Engaging</i> Fostering a learning atmosphere that is relevant, participatory, and motivating for all learners.</p>
Characteristics by Area	Characteristics by Area
Culture and Community	Culture and Community
<p><i>Was in CIA:</i> Educators value young adolescents and are prepared to teach them.</p>	<p>Educators respect and value young adolescents. <i>(moved from Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment from 2010 and split into two)</i></p>
<p>The school environment is inviting, safe, inclusive, and supportive of all</p>	<p>The school environment is <i>welcoming</i>, inclusive, and <i>affirming</i> for all</p>

Every student's academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate	Every student's academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate
	NEW - School safety is addressed proactively, justly, and thoughtfully (<i>itemized school safety out of first characteristic in this group from 2010</i>)
Comprehensive guidance and support services meet the needs of young adolescents	Comprehensive <i>counseling</i> and support services meet the needs of young adolescents.
The school actively involves families in the education of their children	The school <i>engages</i> families as <i>valued partners</i> .
The school includes community and business partners	The school <i>collaborates with</i> community and business partners.
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment	Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
<i>Was:</i> Educators value young adolescents and are prepared to teach them.	Educators are specifically prepared to teach young adolescents <i>and possess a depth of understanding in the content areas they teach.</i>
Curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and relevant.	Curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and <i>diverse. (relevant is included in descriptor of integrative)</i>
Health and wellness are supported in curriculum, school-wide programs, and related policies.	Health, wellness, <i>and social-emotional competence</i> are supported in curricula, school-wide programs, and related policies. (<i>moved from Culture and Community</i>)
Educators use multiple learning and teaching approaches AND Students and teachers are engaged in active, purposeful learning	Instruction fosters learning that is active, purposeful, and <i>democratic.</i> (combined 2 characteristics)
Varied and ongoing assessments advance learning as well as measure it	Varied and ongoing assessments advance learning as well as measure it
Leadership and Organization	Leadership and Organization
A shared vision developed by all stakeholders guides every decision.	A shared vision developed by all stakeholders guides every decision.
	NEW - Policies and practices are student-centered, unbiased, and fairly implemented.
Leaders are committed to and knowledgeable about this age group, educational research, and best practices	Leaders are committed to and knowledgeable about <i>young adolescents, equitable practices, and educational research</i>
Leaders demonstrate courage and collaboration	Leaders demonstrate courage and collaboration
Ongoing professional development reflects best educational practices	Professional <i>learning</i> for all staff is <i>relevant, long term, and job embedded.</i>
Organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships	Organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships