

California Administrator Performance Expectations (CAPE)

Preamble to the CAPE: Effective educational leaders strive for educational opportunities that are driven by equity and culturally responsive practices to promote each student’s academic success and well-being. California leaders recognize, respect, and utilize each student’s strengths, experiences, and background as assets for teaching and learning. Effective educational leaders confront and alter institutional biases of student marginalization, deficit-based schooling, and low expectations.

Throughout the CAPE, reference is made to “all students” or “all TK-12 students.” This phrase is intended as a widely inclusive term that references all students attending public schools. Students may exhibit a wide range of learning and behavioral characteristics, as well as disabilities, dyslexia, intellectual or academic advancement, and differences based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, culture, language, religion, and/or geographic origin. The range of students in California public schools also includes students whose first language is English, English learners, and Standard English learners. This inclusive definition of “all students” applies whenever and wherever the phrase “all students” is used in the CAPE.

1: DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION OF A SHARED VISION
Education leaders facilitate the development and implementation of a shared vision of learning and growth of all students.
1A: Developing a Student-Centered Vision of Teaching and Learning
New administrators develop a collective vision that uses multiple measures of data and focuses on equitable access, opportunities, and outcomes for all students. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Develop a student-centered vision of teaching and learning based on the understanding that the school’s purpose is to increase student learning and well-being.
2. Analyze available student and school data from multiple sources to develop a site-specific vision and mission.
3. Analyze and apply political, social, economic, and cultural contexts to inform the school’s vision and mission.
4. Analyze and align the school’s vision and mission to the district’s goals.
5. Explain how school plans, programs, and activities support the school’s vision to advance the academic, linguistic, cultural, aesthetic, social-emotional, behavioral, and physical development of each student.
6. Communicate the school’s vision of teaching and learning clearly to staff and stakeholders.
1B: Developing a Shared Vision and Community Commitment
New administrators apply their understanding of school governance and the roles, responsibilities, and relationships of the individual and entities within the California education system that shape staff and community involvement. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Engage staff and diverse community stakeholders in a collaborative process, including consensus building and decision making, to develop a vision of teaching and learning that is shared and supported by all stakeholders.
2. Use effective strategies for communicating with all stakeholders about the shared vision and goals.
3. Promote a community commitment and collective sense of responsibility for enacting the school’s vision, mission, and goals.
1C: Implementing the Vision
New administrators recognize and explain to staff and other stakeholders how the school vision guides planning, decision-making, and the change processes required to continuously improve teaching and learning. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Engage staff and other stakeholders in sharing data to assess program/instructional strengths and needs that lead to student, staff, and community goals.
2. Use the goals in developing and implementing a plan aligned with the school’s shared vision of equitable learning opportunities for all students.
3. Collect, analyze, and use multiple sources of data for ongoing monitoring to determine whether the plan is helping staff and stakeholders move toward the school’s vision.
4. Share results with students, staff, and other stakeholders and use this information to guide updates, revisions, and the allocation of resources to support the plan and advance the vision.
5. Facilitate and support school structures, systems, and conditions that offer equal opportunities for all students to succeed.
2: INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP
Education leaders shape a collaborative culture of teaching and learning informed by professional standards and focused on student and professional growth.
2A: Personal and Professional Learning
New administrators recognize that professional growth is an essential part of the shared vision to continuously improve the school, staff, student learning, and student safety and well-being. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Use the California Standards for the Teaching Profession (CSTP) for teachers and the CAPE and CPSEL for administrators to describe and set expectations for growth and performance for staff and for themselves.

2. Involve staff in identifying areas of professional strength and development that link to accomplishing the school’s vision and goals to improve instruction and student learning.
3. Assist staff in developing personalized professional growth plans, based on state-adopted standards that identify differentiated activities and outcomes for individual and collaborative learning based on the CSTP, CAPE, and CPSEL.
4. Use resources to support evidence-based practices that staff can apply to solve school-level problems of practice.
2B: Promoting Effective Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
New administrators understand the role of instructional leader and use the state-adopted standards and frameworks to guide, support, and monitor teaching and learning. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Use a range of communication approaches to assist staff and stakeholders in understanding state standards, student assessment processes, and how these relate to accomplishing the school’s vision and goals.
2. Establish and maintain high learning expectations for all students.
3. Support and promote effective instruction and a range of instructional methods and supporting practices that address the diverse educational needs of all students.
4. Identify and use multiple types of evidence-based assessment measures and processes to determine student academic growth and success.
2C: Supporting Teachers to Improve Practice
New administrators know and apply research-based principles of adult learning theory and understand how teachers develop across the phases of their careers, from initial preparation and entry, through induction, ongoing learning, and accomplished practice. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Use adult learning theory to design, facilitate, and implement various strategies that guide and support staff members in improving their practice.
2. Use state-adopted professional standards (e.g., CAPE, CPSEL and CSTP) with staff and the community as a foundation to guide professional learning.
3. Build a comprehensive and coherent system of professional learning focused on reaching the shared vision of equitable access to learning opportunities and resources and positive outcomes for all students.
2D: Feedback on Instruction
New administrators know and understand TK–12 student content standards and frameworks, TK–12 performance expectations, and aligned instructional and support practices focused on providing equitable learning opportunities so that all students graduate ready for college and careers. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Use knowledge of TK-12 student academic content standards and appropriate instructional practices to observe classroom planning and instruction in accordance with LEA policy and practices.
2. Use the principles of reflective collegial feedback to guide instructional improvement.
3. Provide timely, constructive suggestions about instructional strategies and assessments, available resources, and technologies to refine and enhance instruction and assessment that supports student learning, safety, and well-being.
3: MANAGEMENT AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
Education leaders manage the organization to cultivate a safe and productive learning and working environment.
3A: Operations and Resource Management
New administrators know that day-to-day and long-term management strategies are a foundation for staff and student health, safety, academic learning, and well-being. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Manage the interrelationships within the network of school operations; instructional programs; student services; and material, fiscal, and human resources.
2. Develop a plan to engage staff and other stakeholders in establishing routines and procedures for monitoring facilities, operations, and resource acquisition and distribution that help maintain a focus on access to learning opportunities and resources and positive outcomes for all students.
3. Follow regulations related to accessibility of the physical plant, grounds, classes, materials, and equipment for staff and students.
4. Use technology to facilitate communication, manage information, enhance collaboration, and support effective management of the school. Handle confidential matters relating to students and staff in a manner consistent with legal practices and ethical principles.
3B: Managing Organizational Systems and Human Resources
New administrators know the importance of established structures, policies and practices that lead to all students graduating ready for college and career. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Follow legal and ethical procedures for hiring, evaluating, supervising, disciplining, recommending for non-reelection, and dismissing staff.
2. Apply labor relations processes and collective bargaining in California and their application to contract implementation and management at the local level.
3. Use a systems thinking perspective to set priorities and manage organizational complexity; develop schedules and assignments that coordinate human resources, physical space, and time to maximize staff collaboration and student learning; and to engage staff and other

stakeholders in using data to help establish, monitor, and evaluate the alignment and effectiveness of organizational processes to meet school goals and provide equitable access to opportunities for all students.
3C: School Climate New administrators understand the leader’s role in establishing a positive, productive school climate, supportive of staff, students and families. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Use principles of positive behavior interventions, conflict resolution, and restorative justice and explain to staff and community members how these approaches support academic achievement, safety, and well-being for all students.
2. Recognize personal and institutional biases and inequities within the education system and the school site that can negatively impact staff and student safety and performance and address these biases.
3. Recognize discriminatory practices, signs of trauma, manifestations of mental illness, and promote culturally responsive, positive and restorative strategies to address diverse student and school needs
3D: Managing the School Budget and Personnel New administrators know how effective management of staff and the school’s budget supports student and site needs. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Observe classroom planning and instruction in accordance with LEA policy and practices; analyze evidence of teacher effectiveness based on student work and learning outcomes; communicate evaluative feedback effectively, equitably, and on a timely basis to help teachers improve instructional practices and foster positive learning environments.
2. Provide unbiased, evidence-based feedback about observed teaching and learning to improve instructional practice.
3. Provide staff with timely, constructive suggestions about strategies, available resources, and technologies that support student learning, safety, and well-being.
4. Apply foundational laws and regulations pertaining to California school finance, federal and state program funding, and local allocations.
5. Assess and analyze student and site needs and use this understanding as a base to support financial decision-making and efforts to prioritize expenditures that support the school’s vision, goals, and improvement plans.
6. Use various technologies related to financial management and business procedures.
7. Collaborate with finance office staff and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to understand, monitor, and report in a clear and transparent manner the school’s budget and expenditures, including financial record keeping and accounting.
4: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Education leaders collaborate with families and other stakeholders to address diverse student and community interests and mobilize community resources.
4A: Parent and Family Engagement New administrators engage families in education and school activities and understand the benefits of and regulations pertaining to their involvement. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Engage family and community members in accomplishing the school’s vision of equitable schooling and continuous improvement that includes the academic, linguistic, cultural, social-emotional, mental and physical health, and/or other supports needed to succeed in school.
2. Create and promote a welcoming environment for family and community participation.
3. Recognize and respect family goals and aspirations for students.
4. Work with staff to develop a range of communication strategies to inform families about student assessments and achievement, teacher professional learning activities, school climate, and progress toward achieving school goals.
4B: Community Involvement New administrators recognize the range of family and community perspectives and, where appropriate, use facilitation skills to assist individuals and groups in reaching consensus on key issues that affect student learning, safety, and well-being. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Build trust and work collaboratively with families and the community to promote a sense of shared responsibility and accountability for achieving the goal of graduating every student ready for college and careers.
2. Use strategies such as conflict resolution in facilitating communication between different community groups to reach consensus on key issues that can be incorporated into the school’s vision, plans, and decisions.
3. Access community programs and services that assist all students, including those who require extra academic, mental health, linguistic, cultural, social-emotional, physical, or other needs to succeed in school.
4. Explain to staff and other stakeholders the importance of ongoing community understanding and support by mobilizing and sustaining resources directed toward achieving school goals.
5: ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
Education leaders make decisions, model, and behave in ways that demonstrate professionalism, ethics, integrity, justice, and equity and hold staff to the same standard.
5A: Reflective Practice New administrators regularly review and reflect on their performance and consider how their actions affect others and influence progress toward school goals. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:

1. Take responsibility for developing their professional leadership capacity and assess personal and professional challenges as a way to identify areas for self-improvement.
2. Use a professional learning plan to focus personal and professional growth in order to achieve the school’s vision and goals.
3. Seek opportunities for professional learning that address the range of students’ academic, linguistic, cultural, aesthetic, social-emotional, physical, and economic needs.
4. Maintain a high standard of professionalism, ethics, integrity, justice, and equity and expect the same behavior of others.
5B: Ethical Decision-Making New administrators develop and know how to use professional influence with staff, students, and community to develop a climate of trust, mutual respect, and honest communication necessary to consistently make fair and equitable decisions on behalf of all students. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Recognize any possible institutional barriers to student and staff learning and use strategies that overcome barriers that derive from economic, social-emotional, racial, linguistic, cultural, physical, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other sources of educational disadvantage or discrimination.
2. Guide staff in examining issues that may affect accomplishment of the school’s vision, mission, and goals, including issues that may be related to race, diversity, and access.
3. Involve family and community stakeholders in reviewing aggregated and, where appropriate, disaggregated student data and evidence-based best practices to identify and address actual and anticipated challenges that can negatively affect student success.
5C: Ethical Action New administrators understand that how they carry out professional obligations and responsibilities affects the entire school community. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Apply policies and practices that both support student learning and protect the rights and confidentiality of students, families, and staff.
2. Act with integrity, fairness, and justice and intervene appropriately so that all members of the school community are treated equitably and with dignity and respect.
3. Use personal and professional ethics as a foundation for communicating the rationale for their actions.
6: EXTERNAL CONTEXT AND POLICY
Education leaders influence political, social, economic, legal and cultural contexts affecting education to improve education policies and practices.
6A: Understanding and Communicating Policy New administrators are aware of the important role education policy plays in shaping the learning experiences of students, staff, families, and the larger school community. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Recognize that any school is part of a larger district, state, and federal context that is influenced by political, social, economic, legal, and cultural factors.
2. Understand and analyze governance and policy systems and use this knowledge to explain roles and relationships of school and district administrators, local and state boards of education, and the legislature to staff and the school community.
3. Facilitate discussions among staff and the community about aligning mandates and policies with staff and student goals for continuously improving instruction, learning, and well-being.
4. Operate within legal parameters at all levels of the education system.
6B: Representing and Promoting the School New administrators understand that they are a spokesperson for the school’s accomplishments and needs. During preliminary preparation, aspiring administrators learn how to:
1. Improve their public speaking, writing, electronic communication, presentation, and advocacy skills.
2. Provide the public with a clear picture of what the school’s mission, vision, and goals are in order to garner public support for the school and its activities to promote student learning, safety, and well-being.
3. Communicate how the school is doing in meeting its goals and identify where resource contributions from the public are needed and would be most helpful.
4. Involve stakeholders in helping address the school’s challenges as well as sharing in its successes.

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