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# Series Introduction

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) is the largest association in the world representing school system leaders and, in particular, school district superintendents. These educational leaders know that the quality of America's schools depends heavily on the ability of school principals. AASA recognizes a pressing need exists to improve the skills and knowledge of current and prospective school leaders. To help address this need, AASA has put in place the Leadership for Learning initiative. This series of books plays a central role in this initiative.

The Leadership for Learning books address a broad range of knowledge and skills school superintendents, exceptional principals, and researchers believe are essential to ensure effective leadership at the school level. The content of this series of books reflects the "leaders' standards" developed for state licensure by the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC), which was composed of representatives from several professional organizations representing educators, policymakers, and scholars. These standards have been adopted by more than two thirds of the states as the criteria by which the qualifications of school principals should be judged. Although the books in the series can be thought of as parts of a coherent curriculum, individual books stand on their own as syntheses of relevant research and expert consensus about best practice. The series as a whole reflects these commitments:

- All students should have the opportunity to maximize their potential for intellectual and social development.
- Enhancing the quality of teaching is the most important way to influence students' opportunities to learn.
- The actions of administrators, teachers, and school staff should be based on collaborative problem solving focused on the

systematic analysis of student performance and evidence of effective practice.

- School leaders need to foster the active engagement of parents and community organizations in the direct facilitation of student learning.

*Leadership for Literacy* examines the foundations of highly effective literacy programs in the primary grades. The focus is on the ways research on effective classrooms and productive schools can be used to ratchet up literacy achievement for all youngsters, especially children who have not fared well in school. The book helps leaders learn how to promote quality instruction, deepen the curriculum, and coordinate regular and special programs. The book also helps principals to promote higher reading achievement by fostering learning communities within schools and by nurturing collaboration between home and school.

—Willis D. Hawley

—Joe Schneider

Series Editors