

Great School Quality Checklist

School Name: _____

- Complete a separate *Great School Quality Checklist* for each school you consider.
- In Notes column, make notes about each school. Which factor elements are strengths? Weaknesses?

After gathering available information, grade each school on each overall Great School Quality Factor:

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- A** school has all of the elements
- B** school has most of the elements
- C** school has about half of the elements
- D** most of the elements are missing
- F** school has none or almost none of the elements

GREAT SCHOOL QUALITY FACTORS	NOTES ABOUT THIS SCHOOL	GRADE
<p>1. Clear Mission Guiding School Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written mission communicating focus and priorities • Staff, parents & written materials state same mission • School-wide goals support mission • Student goals, curriculum & teaching support mission 		
<p>2. High Expectations for All Students: <i>High Minimum Expectations for All</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging but achievable student learning goals (standards) for each grade level • School-wide plan and actions ensure that all students achieve at least grade level in basics, no excuses • All or near all children achieve grade level • Progress scores high for all, including lowest scorers <p><i>Higher Expectations for Students Who are Ready</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning goals raised for ready students • Clear, written progression of goals beyond grade level • Plan and actions ensure students meet higher goals • At least gifted students achieve very high test scores • Progress scores are high for top students 		
<p>3. Monitoring of Progress and Adjusting Teaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School assesses individual student progress (weekly is ideal) • Teachers change teaching approach to ensure that every child achieves his or her learning goals 		
<p>4. Focus of Effective Learning Tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruction approach proven to work • Class time allocated according to subjects' importance • Materials & facilities allocated in line with importance • Principal and teachers limit class interruptions 		
<p>5. Home-School Connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School tells parents what children will be learning • School tells parents how to help own children learn • School updates parents on own child performance • School works with parents to resolve problems 		
<p>6. Safe and Orderly Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students know how they are expected to behave • Students focus on work in the classroom • Consequences for behavior are clear and consistent • School keeps students safe from harm 		
<p>7. Strong Instructional Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear performance expectations for teachers • Principal recruits, keeps great teachers • Teachers work together within & across grades • Principal monitors individual teacher performance • Staff regularly identifies problems, improves school • Professional development focused on school goals • Principal acts on low teacher performance 		