

1. ***Teacher Leadership that Strengthens Professional Practice*, Charlotte Danielson, 2006**

An essential resource for administrators and teachers who want to strongly support the development of outstanding teaching and learning. Danielson provides a practical framework for building a school culture for strengthening teachers' leadership potential and marshaling their efforts to better educate all students by identifying the "what" and "how" of teacher leadership capacity that supports creating an effective professional learning community.

2. ***Failure is Not an Option: Six Principles that Guide Student Achievement in High Performing Schools*, Alan Blankstein, 2004**

Blankstein presents a powerful guide for creating successful and sustainable professional learning communities that incorporate six guiding principles for supporting and developing a high performing school culture for learning and teaching. These six guiding principles are:

- Common mission, vision, values, and goals
- Systems for prevention and intervention
- Collaborative teaming for teaching and learning
- Data-driven decision making and continuous improvement
- Active engagement with family and community
- Building sustainable leadership capacity

3. ***Professional Learning Communities at Work: Best Practices for Enhancing Student Achievement*, Rick Dufor and Robert Eaker, 2004**

This book identifies Strategies for "Getting Started" in creating and sustaining professional learning communities that strengthen teacher leadership that results in increasing student achievement.

4. ***One Kid at a Time*, Eliot Levine, 2003**

The opportunity for meaningful, exciting, and engaged learning is exemplified in the pages of this book. The author describes the "Met" school and its relentless focus on rigorous, relevant and meaningful learning.

5. ***Breaking Ranks II: Strategies for Leading High School Reform*, NASSP, 2004**

*Breaking Ranks* provides research-based strategies and recommendations for increasing student performance by creating school cultures that support collaborative leadership/ professional learning communities; personalized learning; and student centered curriculum, instruction and assessment.

6. ***Results that Matter: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and High School Reform, Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills* [www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org)**

The Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills has developed a unified, collective vision for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning that can be used to strengthen American high schools. The Partnership has identified six key elements of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning: core subjects, 21<sup>st</sup> century content, learning and thinking skills, information and communications technology (ICT) literacy, life skills and 21<sup>st</sup> century assessments. Specific definitions can be found at their website.