
Introduction

You reached your goal. You have a principalship. Even though you dreamed of this day and worked hard to reach this goal, your excitement may be tinged with anxiety.

If you are feeling uncomfortable, keep in mind that you have a lot of company. The feelings and concerns that you are experiencing are common to most beginning principals. Culture shock and anxiety are normal when people move out of their comfort level into a new role and unfamiliar territory.

The book you are reading is designed to act as your paperback mentor.

Launching Your First Principalship is written as a practical guide for aspiring and beginning principals. Veteran principals, experiencing a new situation, may find enrichment as well. The book addresses topics, such as the critical first days, tips for getting acquainted, ending and beginning the school year, communication skills, maximizing staff potential, solving problems and settling grievances, making changes, time management, and taking care of yourself. Interviews with first-year principals and seasoned veterans provide insights on common pitfalls to avoid and critical skills to acquire.

Although the primary purpose of the book is to serve as a paperback mentor for beginning principals, professors of educational administration and central office personnel will find the information useful in preservice preparation and beginning assistance programs.