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"Students are the heartbeat of the school." As with our physical bodies we must maintain a steady, strong heartbeat to stay alive. We do this by taking care of ourselves, exercising and healthy eating. As an assistant principal you are responsible for maintaining the "heartbeat" of the school which are your students. In order to maximize learning potential students' needs must be met. These needs could range from physical needs which are when students are hungry, need shelter or feel unsafe due to neighbor concerns or bullying situations to emotional when students need counseling support or a need for self-confidence. One example of this was when I noticed a trend in the third grade of a group of African American girls having a conversation about being embarrassed about their hair. In learning about this, I immediately began collaborating with a third-grade teacher to create a Donors Choose project which would provide 10 students with a copy of the Grace Byers book "I Am Enough". The project was selected and fully funded and students will be starting a club with me to be able to become empowered by the lessons provided in the story and have their self-esteem raised. I believe it is important to seek out ways to meet needs where they do not exist. This can be done by the power of establishing RELATIONSHIPS, with your students, their families and community /business partnerships. When our "heartbeat" remains strong we ensure our school climate and community remain strong!