

## Defining a Resilient Principal

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The role of any educator or administrator is to be flexible and to deal with the changes that any given situation on any given day could bring. In my nearly 15 years of heading an elementary school, I found that being able to adjust, bounce back, and recover from changes helped to make me a better leader and a more understanding colleague. Being resilient also helps one to maintain a great sense of pride and accomplishment.

Here are some key points to consider:

- One of the most important indicators for success and resiliency is always being prepared for a meeting, conference, phone call, and so on. It's very stressful to be caught unprepared, like going into a meeting without having thought out your part or the points that you need to make. Waiting until the last minute and "winging it" just does not work.
- Stay focused! Stay in the moment. It is hard to not think about the next big decision that you have to make or the next meeting you need to attend. Maintaining a connection to the present makes you more effective. Learn those practiced, tried-and-true listening skills, and use them at all times. Nothing can top being seen as sincere and caring.
- Be the ultimate role model. Make sure that all decisions are made with students as the number one priority. This thought track means that you can sleep well and be proud of the direction in which you are leading your school. Remember that you are fortunate to work in a profession that has the ability to change the world.

While there is no tested or proven method for fostering resiliency, acclimating to change comes from being open, honest, and reflective. To be truly resilient means to step back, see what isn't working, and then try and fix it. By being able to accommodate to change, you are on the pathway toward success.

And chances are that when it comes to defining a resilient principal, your name will roll off people's lips. **P**

## Recommended Reading for Resiliency

### *Pivot: How One Turn in Attitude Can Lead to Success*

by Alan R. Zimmerman

Attitude plays a crucial role in your success! Whether you are struggling with your goals, unmotivated at work, burnt out on bad news, or just uninspired, Zimmerman's nine-step revolution can make a change in your life!

Item # PIVOT-PMJ07

Members \$19.95

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### *Learning by Doing: A Handbook for Professional Learning Communities at Work*

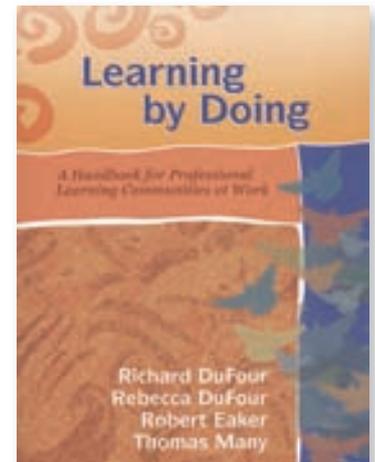
by Richard DuFour, Rebecca DuFour, Robert Eaker, and Thomas Many

This handbook will help educators close the knowing-doing gap as principals and school leaders transform their schools into professional learning communities (PLCs). A CD is included.

Item # LBD-PMJ07

Members \$27.95

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### *The Learning Leader*

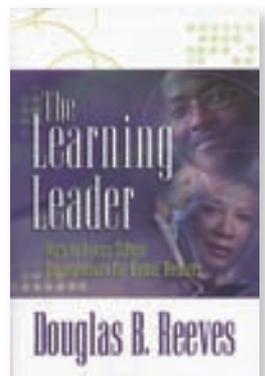
by Douglas B. Reeves

Douglas Reeves encourages all educators to become more efficient and focused leaders. He emphasizes to leaders that student achievement is more than just test scores.

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Members \$26.95

Nonmembers \$33.95



To order these resources, call NAESP's National Principals Resource Center (NPRC) at 800-386-2377, fax 800-396-2377, or send check, credit card information, or purchase order to: National Principals Resource Center, 1615 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314-3483. Members receive an additional 10 percent discount by ordering online at [www.naesp.org/nprc](http://www.naesp.org/nprc).