

# Key Characteristic 1: Culture of Learning

## What it means

A good institution nurtures and sustains a healthy culture for learning. In a healthy culture, learners, parents, and educators feel connected to the purpose and work of the institution as well as behave in alignment with the stated values and norms. The institution also demonstrates evidence that reflects the mission, beliefs, and expectations of the institution (e.g., student work; physical appearance of the institution; participation in institution activities; parents attendance at institution functions).

## Keys to A Culture of Learning

A healthy culture is evident where:

- Stakeholders are actively engaged and supportive of the institution's mission
- Learners' academic and non-academic needs and interests are the focal point
- Stakeholders are included and supported

### STANDARD 1

Leaders cultivate and sustain a culture that demonstrates respect, fairness, equity, and inclusion, and is free from bias.

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### STANDARD 2

Learners' well-being is at the heart of the institution's guiding principles such as mission, purpose, and beliefs.

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### STANDARD 3

Leaders actively engage stakeholders to support the institution's priorities and guiding principles that promote learners' academic growth and well-being.

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### STANDARD 4

Learners benefit from a formal structure that fosters positive relationships with peers and adults.

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### STANDARD 5

Professional staff members embrace effective collegiality and collaboration in support of learners.

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### STANDARD 6

Professional staff members receive the support they need to strengthen their professional practice.

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