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School Leadership in Action: Responsibilities and the Art of Bridging Policy and Practice

Under the School Act and its accompanying regulations, Principals (and Vice-Principals, where delegated) hold responsibility for the overall leadership and daily operation of their schools. In brief, this includes:

- **School administration & operations**

Ensuring the effective day-to-day functioning of the school, including timetables, student placement, records, and the coordination of school services and resources.

- **Instructional leadership**

Overseeing the implementation of provincial curriculum, supporting high-quality teaching and assessment, and promoting a culture of learning and continuous improvement.

- **Staff supervision**

Providing direction, support, and evaluation for teachers and support staff, and making recommendations to district leadership when required.

- **Student conduct & safety**

Upholding school discipline, student welfare, and emergency procedures to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment.

- **Community engagement & communication**

Working with parents, PACs, district staff, and community partners to support student success and strengthen school–community relationships.

- **Compliance with legislation & policy**

Ensuring the school aligns with the School Act, Ministerial Orders, district policies, and reporting requirements.

Bridging Policy and Practice

The [BCPVPA Leadership Competencies](#) highlight the Principal and Vice-Principal’s role in connecting system policy with everyday school realities. This means understanding the why behind provincial and district direction, and then applying it in ways that support teaching, learning, and the well-being of your school community.

When you encounter uncertainty or need support interpreting policy in context, reach out to the [BCPVPA MSS team](#) — we’re here to help you bridge policy and practice with confidence.