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Characteristics of an Effective Principal-Counselor Relationship*

1. Open communication that provides multiple opportunities for input to decision making
2. Opportunities to share ideas on teaching, learning and schoolwide educational initiatives
3. Sharing information about needs within the school and the community
4. School counselor participation on school leadership teams
5. Joint responsibility in the development of goals and metrics that indicate success
6. Mutual trust between the principal and school counselors
7. A shared vision of what is meant by student success
8. Mutual respect between the principal and school counselors
9. Shared decision making on initiatives that impact student success
10. A collective commitment to equity and opportunity

* The questions on the national survey of principals and counselors, including the characteristics of effective principal-counselor relationships, were suggested by experts at the College Board, ASCA and NASSP. While this is not an exhaustive list and there may be additional important characteristics of these relationships, all 10 presented here were endorsed by both principals and counselors as important characteristics of an effective principal-counselor relationship.