



Clovis Unified School District

*Doc Buchanan*  
**Leadership Academy**

### 5 Minute Activity

#### Student Success is at the Center of Every Decision

*Read the excerpt from Leadership Philosophies of the Clovis Unified School District (p. 7). Then, discuss one or more of the prompts below.*

#### **Never lose focus on our kids.**

Clovis Unified School District exists because of its students. What is best for children is the core of who we are. Regardless of where someone serves in the organization, everyone is an educator. It's easy to lose sight of our students when adults are focused only on themselves.

As Doc used to say, the job of a leader is to keep focusing the attention of the people on the task that needs to be done and their responsibility to that task. If we keep our eyes on students and what they need to be successful, then decisions become simple, even if not always easy.

#### **Discussion Prompts**

*Emerging Leaders (101):* Read the second paragraph in the excerpt. It sounds so simple. Can you identify any decision that needs to be made in which the focus cannot be what is best for the student(s)? Please share one. If not, why not?

*Established Leaders (201):* I used to have a friend who was a great teacher, but she would tell you she went into education so she could travel during the summers. I'm not sure she was focused on herself, but she surely appeared to be. Sometimes when we hire, we don't ask enough questions to get to the heart of a person. I know a former principal who made the same candidate three times before she made the decision to move the candidate forward. It turned out to be a great hire, but she needed to be sure in her "gut" that she was making the right decision. Think about all the hires for which you were responsible. Describe how you know in your "gut" you are making the right decision and hiring someone who will not lose sight of our students.

*Tenured Leaders (301):* At times it may seem that our stakeholders only care about themselves, their families, and their neighborhoods. This is especially true during boundary changes. Boundary changes impact every single department. At one time or another every school has been impacted by boundary changes. Yet, change is inevitable as parts of the district have growth while others decline in enrollment. Identify 1 or 2 ways you, as the leader, can explain to your department/school/division why a change is necessary and how it is best for students.

*Note: This activity can be completed using a variety of changes like teaching standards, budget reductions, almost anything that requires a change from the norm.*