

To improve the world's environment, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in our schools will be an important contributor. However, in many educational environments, there are currently many uncertainties and inconsistencies with the implementation process. In a recent study by Mueller, Hancock, Stricker, & Wang (2021), school leaders were found to play a major role in developing a strong culture for ESD within their respective schools. Today's presentation at the Project INVITE conference will review the results of that study and will explore a new investigation designed to better understand the implementation of ESD from a school principal's perspective. Specifically, highlights of a recent comparative study will examine the results of interviews of fifteen school principals in China, Germany, and the United States. Questions asked of the principals by researchers included:

1. Do school principals with whom you are familiar support sustainability issues? If so, how?
2. What leadership strategies do principals apply to introduce and/or sustain ESD in their schools?
3. Which issues hinder the introduction and implementation of ESD in their schools?
4. Which competencies do you perceive as needed in order to lead schools in ESD?
5. What has been the impact of COVID-19 on ESD implementation?