



## The Principal: Traversing the High-Wire with No Net Below: 79 Places Where the High-Wire Can Be Greasy

By Dr. Don Sternberg

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### The Principal: Traversing the High-Wire with No Net Below: 79 Places Where the High-Wire Can Be Greasy By Dr. Don Sternberg

The minefield that is public school administration is littered with the bleached bones of both new and established principals who could not successfully traverse the period between their first day as a principal to their retirement party. During that time, you will be a high-wire aerialist, traversing the wire from the beginning of your career, as you step off the platform and onto the wire-high above the ground, until you step off the wire at the other end and onto the platform that is retirement. As you place one foot in front of another you are, in most cases and in most situations, alone. As you look at the long, thin strand of wire ahead of you, is that grease you see and who the hell put that there?

Knowing where the high-wire is greased will allow you to successfully grow old on the high-wire. Success can simply mean making it to retirement. However, success can also mean (and should mean) facilitating the creation of a school that fully supports student learning and teacher growth. You choose. It is your career; it is your high-wire.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

Recognized as New York State's 2009 Principal of the Year, by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and by Redbook magazine for leading one of the 72 best elementary schools in the United States, Dr. Don Sternberg knows what it takes to walk the high-wire. He has worked over forty years in public education, as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and college instructor.

Dr. Sternberg is an adjunct lecturer in educational administration at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and an instructor at a number of online universities. His writing has appeared in Principal magazine as well as the School Administrators Association of New York State Journal. He is also a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

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