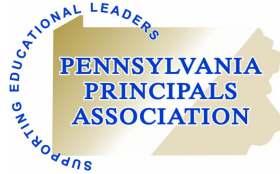


**Sheri Thompson**

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**From:** Dr. Eric Eshbach, Executive Director, PA Principals Association  
<paprincipalsmail@paprincipals.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 12:25 PM  
**To:** Sheri Thompson  
**Subject:** "The Main Idea" – Leaders don't need a degree in special education to build a more inclusive school.



# THE MAIN IDEA

*current education book summaries*

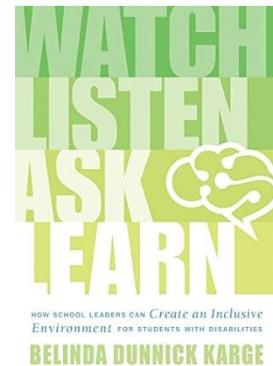
**Member Benefit**

Dear PA Principals Association Member,

First, I want to acknowledge that there's a lot of pain and confusion right now. I am hoping for the safety of all educators and their families. I am just doing the only thing I know to do during difficult times – continuing to support leaders in the important work of educating the next generation to make this a better, more just world.

I'm hearing from principals I work with that more and more kids seem to have IEPs. Yet school leaders don't feel equipped for this influx.

What should school leaders know about the law? How should they support their special education teachers, related services providers, and paraprofessionals? How can they purposefully and thoughtfully move their school toward greater inclusion of students with disabilities so they can truly thrive?



If you don't feel you have a strong enough background in special education to answer these questions, this book is for you: ***Watch, Listen, Ask, Learn: How School Leaders Can Create an Inclusive Environment for Students with Disabilities.*** Belinda Dunnick Karge not only provides the information you need, but she outlines the steps to take to create an inclusive environment at your school.

*I'm excited to share a book that will support you in your commitment to serving all students.*

**I have 3 resources for this book:**

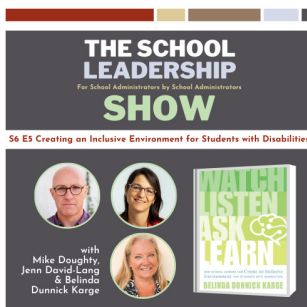
- My usual [8-page pdf summary](#) of Watch, Listen, Ask, Learn or an [html link](#) to read on your phone
- My 1-pager: [What Leaders Should Know About Special Education](#)
- My podcast conversation with the author about the what and why of special education for leaders (below)

***Take extra care of yourself and your school community during this heavy time, and I'll be back in November.***

[Jenn](#)

PS: To learn more or purchase the book, click here:

[Solution Tree](#)



Podcast conversation about the leader's role in creating an inclusive environment for students with disabilities

Click [here to listen](#) to the podcast or go to [Apple Podcasts](#).

**If you like my work, you will love my Mastermind group.**



I run small groups of leaders from across the country that meet online for 1 hour every other week for professional learning, resources, feedback, and support.

We discuss topics to help you lead better. Topics include student engagement, managing difficult conversations, coaching staff, time management, staff retention, and more.

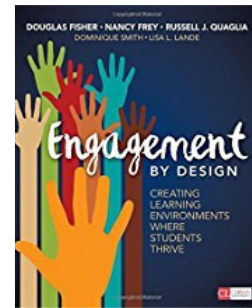
You are welcome to try a **SAMPLE** session. Email me directly to chat, or learn more here: [Masterminds](#)

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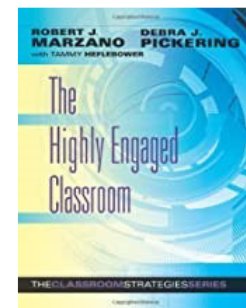
### How is the **student engagement** at your school?

The honeymoon period for student engagement at the start of the year often wanes by October. Or maybe strengthening student engagement is something your school is always working to improve.

Either way, I thought I would share a few previous book summaries on student engagement to help: [Engagement by Design](#) by Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey, et al. and [The Highly Engaged Classroom](#) by Robert Marzano et al. (click book titles for the summaries).



Marzano's research shows that students are engaged when they can answer yes to these questions: How do I feel? Am I interested? Is this important? Can I do this? And the book has a great list of research-based strategies your teachers can easily use.



Fisher and Frey say that student engagement is the result of strong relationships, clarity, and appropriate challenge. They unpack what these mean and how teachers can build them in their classrooms.

These are both great books on student engagement so I decided to create a PPT, based on these books, for subscribers to The Main Idea that you can adapt, along with a HANDOUT for teachers.

If you would like to lead a **workshop on student engagement**, and want a PPT and HANDOUT you can tweak, [request the PPT here.](#)

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**\*\*\*NEW PASSWORD to access over 170 previous book summaries: [readbooks](#) (you must use lowercase letters).**

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