

**Cora Spencer SBDM Committee**  
**“Failure is Not an Option”**

This year the Spencer Site-Based Decision Making Committee will be reading and begin implementing the six principles of effective schools that are identified in the book, *Failure is Not an Option*. The purpose of the book study is to examine our current practices, make suggestions for improvement, and insure student success. The SBDM Committee consisting of Spencer teachers, parents, business representatives, and community residents will provide the leadership necessary for school improvement. This team will guide the entire staff through the six principles of effective schools during the 2008-2009 school year.

***Failure is Not an Option***  
**By Alan M. Blankstein**

**Six Principles that Guide Student Achievement in High-Performing Schools**

Principle #1	Common Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals
Principle #2	Ensuring Achievement for All Students
Principle #3	Collaborative Teaming Focused on Teaching and Learning
Principle #4	Using Data to Guide Decision Making and Continuous Improvement
Principle #5	Gaining Active Engagement from Family and Community
Principle #6	Building Sustainable Leadership Capacity