



## District Leadership Project Information and Application for Cohort 1

### Purpose

This program is an initiative of the Chalkboard Project to enhance the leadership skills of current school and district leaders across Oregon. The Distinguished Leaders Council developed the recommendations and vision for the program. Staff from the Center for Educational Leadership (CEL) will lead the program for current district leaders who have supervisory roles with principals. Interested applicants for Cohort I (up to 50 participants) should be current central office leaders who are deeply committed to improving students' academic performance and have a desire to develop into a true instructional leader.

### Goal and Objectives

The goal of the program is to educate and empower central office administrators and principals to practice leadership behaviors that drive significant gains in student achievement. Central to this model will be the development of a learning community among principal supervisors that will be sustained over time.

Through this learning community and the guided activities, project participants will:

1. Develop a clear understanding of instructional leadership and the supports necessary to improve it at scale.
2. Understand and be able to create the structures and routines necessary to improve the performance of principals as instructional leaders.
3. Develop the skills necessary to use teaching and coaching as a primary lever for improving principal performance.
4. Develop the routines and structures of successful learning communities to support their work together.

### Theory of Action

The rationale the Project follows:

- If we strengthen the competencies of leaders to transform districts and schools, then they will have the capacity to take bold and purposeful action.
- If leaders take bold and purposeful action, then they establish the conditions for effective teaching and learning.
- If the conditions for effective teaching and learning are established, then teachers will have the opportunity to improve instructional practice.
- If teachers improve instructional practice, then student learning will increase.

### Project Structure

This Project is an 18 month program aimed at building leadership capacity in Oregon's school districts. The program provides multilayered support to effectively coach and lead principals as they work to transform their schools. Participants will be provided the supports to assess school needs, design effective turnaround strategies, and successfully implement effective strategies that leads to improved student learning. Each participant will receive ongoing coaching and mentoring through onsite visits and frequent check-ins.

### Eligibility for Participation

This project is open to superintendents and district leadership teams of all Oregon school districts and is **free of charge**. Participants need only pay for the expenses related to travel, lodging and meals. Lunch will be provided. Preference for participation in cohort I (up to 50 participants) will be given to districts that have participated in CLASS/TIF/SDCF projects with Chalkboard, districts with Focus/Priority schools, and/or districts with experience working as pre-K providers.