Missouri Leadership Development System

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education presents the Missouri Leadership Development System which includes

- a two year mentoring program for new administrators.
- ongoing professional learning for principals with more than two years of experience who are looking to sustain their professional growth and leadership effectiveness.

Program Expectations

Collaborative and practical learning experiences for principals at all stages of their career are guided by the content of the MLDS and include administrative mentoring that is responsive to your needs as a practicing building leader. It is intensive and job-embedded practical learning.

- Additional resources available through the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDC)
- Program developed in collaboration with, and supported by, MAESP, MOASSP, and MASA
- Learning aligned to the MLDS Competencies and national leadership standards (PSEL)

Cost to District

Mentoring fees will be waived for participants who complete the Emerging Level series of MLDS learning. Completion of the Emerging Level series of professional learning meets administrative certification requirements.

Emerging Level

First- and second-year principals
  » Participation satisfies mentoring requirements.

Developing Level

Principals with 3+ years of experience
  » Leadership Academy

Participating principals will be immersed in a series of professional learning experiences specifically tailored to develop their leadership capacity across multiple domains of leadership. Effective leadership requires a skill set that can accommodate the diverse demands of this challenging position. Essential activities will include, but are not limited to

- productive and relevant mentoring (Emerging Level - years 1 and 2).
- comprehensive and progressive learning treatments designed to meet principals’ needs at their current level of experience (Emerging and Developing Levels).
- opportunities to develop formal and informal professional networks.
- relevant leadership learning facilitated by MLDS specialists, delivered in a format that honors a principal’s time.
Choosing to purposefully grow the leadership capacity of Missouri’s principals is a significant undertaking. Research and practical experience confirm the impact of leadership on multiple aspects of school life, personal satisfaction, recruitment and retention of faculty and staff, and student achievement, to name a few.

In the absence of a coordinated approach, trial, error and hope serve as poor substitutes for personal contact with capable mentors, regular engagement with knowledgeable colleagues, and meaningful learning opportunities facilitated by trained leadership development specialists. The aim of the MLDS is to create an ongoing system of learning and support designed to strengthen the capacity and influence of building-level leaders across Missouri.

Sponsors/Members

MLDS is sponsored by the Missouri Partnership for Mentoring School Leaders and includes membership from the following:

- Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
- Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA)
- Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals (MoASSP)
- Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP)
- Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDC)
- Missouri Professors of Educational Administration (MPEA)

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