

School Leadership Resource Guide 2015



Leadership Matters

Effective school leaders are fundamental to great schools. Nearly 60 percent of a student's performance is attributable to teacher and principal effectiveness. There are virtually no documented instances of underperforming schools being turned around without intervention by an outstanding principal. They also play a critical role in implementing school-wide reforms. The combination of effective teachers and strong principals, as opposed to one or the other, has been shown to improve student academic performance. Good principals can help improve schools efficiently because they ensure that excellent teaching and learning spread beyond single classrooms.

Your NCSL Resources

NCSL gathers and conducts research on education topics important to states, provides legislative summaries and technical assistance to legislators and legislative staff on important state policy trends, highlights education policy news and disseminates information on best practices relating to state and federal education issues. As your NCSL topic expert, Kelly Latterman is available as a resource on all state school leadership policy issues.

A Day in the Life: Legislators Learning with Principals

NCSL has partnered with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) to bring principals together with legislators for a one-day observation of principals in action. This observation will take place in October, National Principal's Month. Eight to 12 legislators from different states will be paired with a superior principal in their state identified by NASSP or NAESP. Legislators will be prepared for their visit in advance and will be asked to bring their impressions to an online roundtable discussion with other participating legislators to discuss what they learned. NCSL will lead the online discussion and ask legislators who have decided to take policy action following the experience to speak at the upcoming NCSL Forum in Washington, D.C.

In-State School Leadership Briefing

NCSL, with support from The Wallace Foundation, is able to work closely with one state to provide a half-day in-state workshop for legislators and legislative staff on building a strong principal pipeline. This an opportunity for personalized assistance for your state. NCSL will work with you to develop a customized program that can include research, state policy levers and the state-district connection. Though this opportunity is open to only one state in 2015, NCSL provides assistance to any state that asks. We are here as your resource, so reach out to us if interested.

Casting call for Legislators: Taking Charge on State School Leadership Policy

NCSL will interview legislators who have sponsored innovative school leadership legislation that has been enacted. These interviews will take place in the summer and fall of 2015 and will ask legislators to paint a picture of the policy landscape before their bill was introduced, what inspired the legislation, and whether there was widespread support from key stakeholders. The interviews will inform a brief that will be widely distributed to lawmakers around the country. Other states want to hear from you, legislative leaders. Help us share your story.

Online Resources

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/education/school-principals.aspx>

<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/school-leadership/pages/default.aspx>

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