

STATE ACTION FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROJECT

P-16 Council
Agenda Item E-2
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Update

The State Action for Educational Leadership Project is the centerpiece of the Wallace Funds' national LEADERS Count initiative, a five-year, \$150 million commitment to place quality leadership at the core of school reform and to create a research base to expand it. The objectives of LEADERS Count are to attract and place a broader pool of able candidates for school leadership, to strengthen the abilities of principals and superintendents to improve learning, and to create conditions that allow principals and superintendents to perform as effective leaders.

Phase 1 of the SAELP involved the creation of the Kentucky Consortium, a group of state policy makers, legislators, executive directors of education associations, university researchers, preparation program faculty, and practitioners at all levels (teachers, principals, and superintendents) to discuss the nature and scope of educational leadership.

In Phase 2, the goal is to implement policy changes designed to improve teaching and learning by increasing the quality and quantity of Kentucky's principals and superintendents. These policy changes focus attention on three issues:

- *Supply* - An appropriate pool of principal and superintendent candidates (including women and minorities) who desire to serve as catalysts for school improvement.
- *Context* - Models for creating and implementing local principal and superintendent job descriptions and defining complementary roles for teachers, teacher-leaders, counselors, instructional supervisors, and central office staff creating policies and infrastructures that support improvements in teaching and learning.
- *Demand* - Increased expectations from school councils, local boards, communities, and the public for creating a local environment in which instructional leaders (including minorities and women) are nurtured, selected, and supported in these efforts to raise student achievement.

To move toward these goals, Phase 2 activities include:

- Studies of the pool of potential candidates for principals and superintendents in Kentucky.
- Job analysis and identification of demonstration sites for leadership preparation and development.

- Universitywide involvement in school leader preparation programs, in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Education Professional Standards Board.
- Community consensus-building through the creation of advisory groups.
- Development of legislative awareness and support.

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