



School Leaders Network & California Charter Schools Association Announce **Leadership Development Opportunity Aligned to Common Core**

- **How do you know that your current leadership efforts are aligned in the most effective manner to ensure your school's successful transition to the new state standards?**
- **How can you get access to other leaders as thought partners during this significant shift in education pedagogy, assessments and accountability?**
- **How will you be prepared to off-set "the dip" in student performance scores with the implementation of new assessments as experienced in other states and predicted in California?**
- **How do you create time for a team of instructional leaders from your school to strategically focus on the implementing targeted student outcomes?**

CCSA and School Leaders Network just completed the first year of a successful all charter leadership network pilot with 37 charter school leaders from Los Angeles and San Diego. Based on the successes and learning from the pilots, School Leaders Network will continue a network in Los Angeles and San Diego and will additionally open an opportunity for leaders in the San Bernardino and Central Valley regions for the 2015-16 school year. This exciting opportunity for charter leaders comes at a critical time as charter reauthorization, now more than ever, hangs in the balance with California's transition to the Common Core assessments in 2015. Charter leaders are faced with unprecedented changes in accountability, assessment, rigorous learning standards, and the responsibility to transform teaching and learning. In this time of continued transition it is imperative that school leaders are focused on student achievement. Students – especially those who are most underprivileged – deserve to learn from the most qualified teachers, systematically and strategically led by the most effective principals and instructional leaders. From the pilot we learned that school leaders can more successfully perform this complex job when they are not in isolation to their own school. They need the collaborative support of other dedicated colleagues.

THE PROGRAM

Program Structure: Two Models for Leadership Professional Growth

Principals Network: School Leaders Network builds the efficacy and tenacity of school leaders through a unique and proven Network model of leadership development and support. Networks are strong communities of practice that provide specific cohorts of school leaders with 40 hours of rigorous leadership development over the course of a year. Once a month, for ten consecutive months, leaders, leave the isolation of their schools, to join with 15-18 of their peers to participate in a four hour, professional learning community where they support and learn from each other as they focus on school improvement strategies, raising student achievement, and transforming their schools to be increasingly college and career ready.

Instructional Team Network: Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) Networks enable leadership teams to accomplish accelerated school improvement in order to lead transformational changes for students, as well as to accelerate leadership development for aspiring principals. ILT Networks bring together school teams of 3-4 leaders (Principal, AP, teacher-leader, instructional coach) ten times in the year, for four hours a month, with the purpose to increase their capacity to lead concerted school improvement efforts, develop leadership capacity broadly on the campus, and strengthen the team's interdependence.

How would School Leaders Network benefit me?

- School Leaders Network will provide school leaders with an opportunity to experience how to create and facilitate the kind of rich authentic learning for adults that drives continuous school improvement and student success.
- School Leaders Network will develop the leadership skills of participants so they can analyze the needs of their school to effectively transition to Common Core success, develop a research-based action plan to address these needs, and take effective action to improve student outcomes.
- School Leaders Network will create a community of supportive colleagues who share the beliefs that all students can be successful, that systematic analysis and action planning leads to results, and that reflection on leadership improves leadership practice.

What can I expect if I join a Cohort?

School Leaders Network (SLN) accelerates leadership effectiveness in schools serving traditionally underserved children by engaging school leaders in important highly facilitated peer collaboration:

- Network meetings, led by a trained and highly skilled Facilitator who is a former principal, occur in one live 6-8 hour summer/fall institute and in person once a month meetings over the ten-month school year.
- During each cohort meeting, participants present problems of practice; review leadership actions they took the previous month; offer and receive suggestions and support from other principals; learn new leadership development content using the research-based SLN Design for Leading model; engage in group interactions and discussion on how the content applies to leaders' practice; reflect on his/her own leadership strengths and growth areas; and design and get feedback on action strategies to be completed at their school sites.

WHAT PRINCIPALS ARE SAYING

"SLN has given me hands on and ready to apply strategies to become a better instructional leader at my school. I am more focused on specific and attainable goals that directly inform instruction. At the same time, SLN has allowed me to grow as a professional with the Network of schools similar to mine. The learning that occurs in every session is extremely useful for me and to my leadership team. It has been the most useful professional learning community in my educational career of 26 years."

Member of the Principal Network Model

"The aspects of the program have forced our leadership team to streamline our focus and support our school improvement goal. Additionally, the format of the SLN group and meetings encourages school leaders to communicate and use one another's knowledge and experiences to solve problems. You cannot put a value on this type of collaboration because of how important it is to making growth and providing support."

Member of the ILT Network Model

WHY IS CCSA INVOLVED?

The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) continues to study the national impact of implementation of the new Common Core assessments for potential implications to its members. In order to continue to support the success of the charter movement through increasing student outcomes, CCSA will use data collected by SLN to help tell the story on the continued health of charter schools during the transition, target trend areas for additional support, inform appropriate accountability frameworks and to advance the knowledge gained through the network to the larger charter movement.

COST

In order to launch a Principals network, a minimum of 15 regional Principals or 4-5 school teams at a tuition cost of \$3,000 per leader would be needed per region. Leaders that would like to participate that do not have the funds are still encouraged to apply as both CCSA and SLN are looking for grant funds to off-set total costs.

HOW TO JOIN

Fill in your *Intent to commit* form on-line at http://bit.ly/CCSA-SLN_ITC2015-2016 no later than **August 7, 2015** to secure a network being launched. SLN will choose up to 20 school leader applicants or 4-5 instructional teams from the applicant pool. Networks will include elementary, middle and high school leaders. This program is for both experienced and less experienced leaders. It is recommended that you have at least one full year of school leadership to get the most benefit from the networks. Those not selected for this round will be on a waiting list with SLN and may choose to participate in future SLN networks.

If you'd like more information on School Leaders Network, please contact Janette Tovar at jtovar@connectleadsucceed.org or go to our website www.connectleadsucceed.org. Questions for CCSA? Contact Allison Kenda at akenda@calcharters.org.

Read about the findings from the pilot San Diego and Los Angeles Principal Networks in the attached CCSA-SLN jointly written executive summary.