Educational Leadership Essentials

Standards:

This course aligns to the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (NPBEA) Standards 1-10 by equipping leaders to develop shared vision, act ethically, promote equity, implement rigorous systems, create supportive communities, build professional capacity, and lead continuous improvement efforts.

Educational leaders effectively manage school environments through evidence-based practices, ethical decision-making, and school improvement strategies. Participants will develop essential skills in ethical leadership frameworks, anti-bias policies, and culturally responsive practices while learning action research methods to collect and analyze academic, behavioral, and operational data for evidence-based strategies. The course focuses on creating supportive learning environments through social-emotional learning, trauma-informed practices, and discipline policy alignment, while building leadership systems that integrate vision and mission development, staff capacity building, community partnerships, and ongoing school improvement.

Includes interactive lessons, practical assignments, sample data analysis activities, real-world projects and a leadership action plan framework. Designed for school administrators, assistant principals, department heads, and aspiring educational leaders, this course provides the leadership skills needed for effective school management and improvement in today's schools.
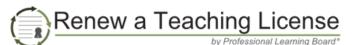
Certificate of Completion

100% Online

Quiz and Assignments

Educational Leadership Essentials

Course Outline

Section A: Ethical and Equitable Leadership (3 hours)

Lesson 1: Ethics and Equity in Leadership
- Ethical Leadership Foundations: Frameworks (Justice, Care, Community), decision-making protocols, and professional codes
- Equity Assessment and Environment: Data analysis tools, inclusive visual environments, access audits, and equity action teams
- Policy Development and Response: Anti-bias policies, discipline policy revision, and bias incident protocols
- Cultural Responsiveness and Community Engagement: Cultural competence, diverse family partnerships, responsive hiring practices, and support networks

Assignment #1: Equity Analysis

Section B: Action Research for Educational Leaders (6 hours)

Lesson 2: Introducing Action Research
- Definitions, history, and key features (collaborative participation, reflective evaluation, knowledge creation)
- Educational benefits and teacher empowerment as reform agents
- Types of Action Research: Practical and Participatory
- Interactive Scenario: Identifying research purpose and objectives

Lesson 3: Selecting Focus Areas
- Mapping areas of concern and student-centered research approaches
- Focus areas: stakeholder involvement (parents, community partnerships), instructional practices and curriculum evaluation, logistics (transportation, scheduling)
- Well-being and relationship building, professional growth and technology integration

Quiz: Research focus identification

Lesson 4: Key Pre-planning Questions
- Developing research agenda and building school-wide support with project teams
- Data collection framework: types, variables, techniques, and structured research models
- Data analysis, storage, interpretation, and sharing findings with educational community

Quiz: Research design fundamentals

Lesson 5: Data Collection Phases
- School-wide action research matrix and data collection from multiple sources
- Data organization, analysis, and interpretation to determine priority areas
- Professional literature review and integration with analysis for action planning

Quiz: Data analysis methods
Assignment #2: Building a questionnaire (2 hours)

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Section C: Data-Driven School Improvement (3 hours)

Lesson 6: Understanding and Using Educational Data
- Types of educational data and their uses: Academic, Behavioral, and Operational
- Why Data Literacy Matters
- Creating data systems and cycles: Collection, Organization, Sharing across Teams, and Sustaining Systems
- Analyzing trends: Attendance, Behavioral trends, Academic Achievement

Quiz: Data systems and analysis

Assignment #3: Analyzing attendance data to identify meaningful patterns for interventional strategies

Section D: Social Emotional Learning Leadership (3 hours)

Lesson 7: Implementing SEL and Trauma-Informed Practices
- Building Foundational Support, Plans, and Adult Competencies
- Promote SEL for Students: School- and Classroom-level Implementation
- Aligning Discipline Practices
- Practice Continuous Improvement
- Trauma-informed Schools

Assignment #4: SEL Implementation Plan

Section E: Leading Effectively with Vision and Mission (5 hours)

Lesson 8: Comprehensive Leadership Systems
- Vision and Mission Leadership:
  - Developing and communicating shared educational vision, mission, and core values
  - Aligning with district initiatives and state priorities; creating implementation systems
  - Recognizing contributions and adapting to changing needs
- Integrated Operations and Capacity Building:
  - Operations management, staff capacity building, and cultivating teacher leadership
  - Creating cohesive leadership systems and comprehensive leadership blueprint

Quiz: 5 question review quiz

Assignment #5: 3 Dimensional Leadership Planning

Section F: Course Completion

QUIZ: 20-question end of course Quiz

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Course Objectives

By the end of this course, school principals and administrators will be able to:

1. Apply ethical and equitable leadership practices to create inclusive, culturally responsive, and supportive school environments.

2. Conduct action research to collect, analyze, and interpret academic, behavioral, and operational data for informed decision-making and school improvement.

3. Develop and implement data-driven strategies to support student success, promote social-emotional learning, and align discipline policies with trauma-informed practices.

4. Design a comprehensive leadership plan that integrates vision and mission development, staff capacity building, and community partnerships for sustainable school transformation.

20
20 Hours
of Learning

Convenient Access:
Start Right Away

Resources & Tools for
Professional Learning Plans