



WASHINGTON STATE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

*WSLA's overarching goal is
SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT.*



Under the direction of the Washington State Legislature and Governor Christine Gregoire through SSSB 5955 in 2007, and with a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Washington State Leadership Academy (WSLA) was established to create a leadership development program to support growth for school and district leaders in order to effectively improve student success. Sustained funding from the State has allowed the program to evolve and grow its roots statewide.

Continued support from the legislature is critical and appreciated.

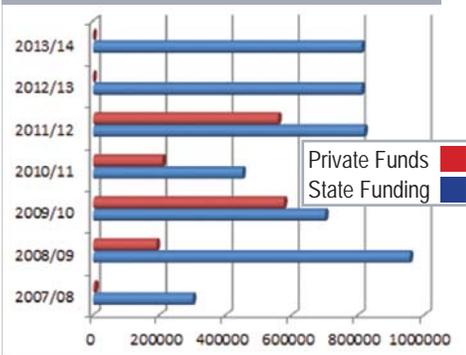
“School district leaders across the State appreciate the legislature’s continued understanding that strong, collaborative leadership is necessary in order to help every student in Washington learn to the highest standard. WSLA assists school district leaders as they strive to achieve what is needed to effectively implement systems to meet the needs of their students. The State’s continued financial support in this important work demonstrates a commitment to quality education in our state.” Carol Whitehead, WSLA Director

WSLA's Unique Approach to Leadership Development

- Regional workshops throughout the two-year program allow for ongoing collaborative learning between and among districts across the region.
- Experienced instructors share a statewide common curriculum of pedagogy and content focused on assessing and strengthening leadership skills to impact academic achievement through modeling and real practice.
- WSLA coaches assist in implementing learned practices with each participating district team in their school and district buildings.

In addition, the Leadership Academy's annual, state-wide culminating workshop has proven to be a highlight to participants for the knowledge exchanged in the district sharing rounds.

WSLA Funding Sources



By the Numbers

79 Washington school districts or ESDs have graduated from or are currently participating in WSLA.

9 Educational Service Districts (ESDs) have partnered in the delivery of WSLA regional workshops. All nine ESDs have offered WSLA for districts in their region, and five of those nine have provided the experience a second time.

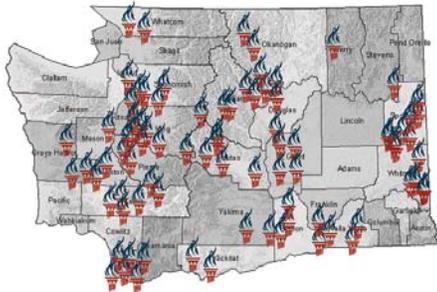
625 total education leaders have participated in the Leadership Academy.

6.5 —the number of years WSLA has been delivering its curriculum.

15 days of in-district coaching are provided each year to participating districts.

The Washington State Leadership Academy develops and supports school and district leaders to create educational systems where powerful instruction helps all students succeed.

WSLA has worked with districts throughout the state.



WSLA is a critical collaborative effort between the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) and the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP).

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Celebrating Leaders as Learners

Eleven district teams from ESDs 121 (Renton) and 105 (Yakima)—the sixth cohort of the Leadership Academy, along with 14 district teams in their second year from ESDs 101 (Spokane) and 171 (Wenatchee), make up our 2013–14 roster of participants. New to this year’s incoming teams is a refined approach created in response to the needs of our districts to more efficiently approach and manage state and federal expectations. While teams in Year Two of the Leadership Academy are continuing work on their district-defined *Problem of Practice (POP)*, Year One teams are working with a predefined POP that will help them define how they can “create and lead a system that ensures effective instruction for all students, integrates multiple initiatives—i.e., Common Core, TPEP, Smarter Balanced—and results in sustained high levels of learning.”

WSLA’s uniquely designed curriculum is rooted in the premise that quality school and district leadership impacts student achievement.

“Case studies of exceptional schools indicate that school leaders influence learning primarily by galvanizing effort around ambitious goals and by establishing conditions that support teachers and that help students succeed.”

From *Beyond Islands of Excellence*,
 Togneri and Anderson, 2003, Learning First Alliance

An Accountable and Worthy Investment

WASA and AWSP representatives meet regularly with the WSLA Director to ensure sustainability, foster open communication and strong collaboration. Additionally, a governing board of directors oversees the Leadership Academy’s work. Membership on the board of directors is diversely represented by public, private and professional association stakeholders including the Office of the Governor and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The executive summary of an evaluative report conducted by The BERG Group in 2010 stated, “*Collaborative work encouraged by WSLA has been a powerful source of learning and support for many administrators.*” The BERG Group has been contracted again to do a follow-up report due in spring 2014.

“As a WSLA coach, I have had the unmatched reward of observing district administrators unite and learn through leadership teams. WSLA teams effectively uncover problems of practice and utilize a theory of action as they endeavor to bring about the desired future for their school system. WSLA is elevating the collective leadership capacity of school administrators, resulting in the improvement of education for Washington’s students; the most promising approach I’ve seen in my 32 years in the education field.” Patsy Guglielmino, WSLA Coach

Principal Evaluation Training

Contracted by OSPI, WSLA has been the lead provider of training of the AWSP Leadership Framework to principal and assistant principal evaluators across the state. Since August 2012, WSLA instructor teams have trained evaluators of principals in nearly all districts in Washington through state-funded workshops, at the WASA and AWSP annual conferences, and through direct district contracts.