



Cohort Questions and Answers

What is the NAESP Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy®?

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP™) Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® is a program designed to promote and build the capacity of national principals and directors to lead Pre-K-3 communities.

Who is sponsoring this initiative?

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP™) and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) are partnering to provide high-quality professional learning and a resource program to meet the needs of elementary principals and Pre-K program directors serving children from age three to eight or Pre-K-3rd Grade.

Will participants be assessed a program fees?

Due to the collaborative partnership of NAESP™ and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), the NAESP Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® is being provided free of charge. Program participants will attend and participate in three in-person and/or virtual meetings as described in the tentative program timeline listed below and will be responsible for their own travel expenses to/from each meeting.

How will content and training be delivered?

The program will consist of a multifaceted and highly engaging blended professional learning environment that will include three in person and/or virtual meetings, multi-media online coursework, and collaboration with peers in a learning management system through on-line discussions and group Zoom meetings. The culminating Capstone Project will provide program participants with an opportunity to apply what they are learning to their current setting. Cohort participants will, with the guidance and support of a trained Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® Advisor, progress through the online training program that is aligned to NAESP™'s foundational competency guide, *Leading Learning Communities: A Principal's Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades (Pre-K–3rd Grade)*. Cohort participants and advisors will also participate in three in-person and/or virtual full-day learning sessions to help take theory, learning, and content into practice.

What are the six competencies that characterize *Leading Learning Communities: A Principal's Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades (Pre-K–3rd Grade)*?

- Understand Child Development and Its Implications for High-Quality Instruction and Interactions, Pre-K–3rd Grade
- Develop and Foster Partnerships with Families and Communities
- Embrace and Enact a Pre-K–3rd Grade Vision
- Ensure Equitable Opportunities
- Share Leadership and Build Professional Capacity
- Promote a Culture of Continuous Improvement

What are the program prerequisites?

The program will be particularly focused on selecting principals from the following priorities:

- elementary schools designated for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI), or
- elementary schools that receive early childhood grant funding, or
- elementary schools that have a local Head Start or Community Childcare director also apply and participate in the academy.

Applications are encouraged for those not meeting the priorities, and will be considered by any principal, director or leader of a Pre-K-3 school or agency.

What is the tentative program timeline?

- October 2020: Applications released.
- December 18, 2020: Program timeline released to participants and advisors.
- March 26, 2021: Applications due to NDE by 4:30 pm.
- April 16, 2021: Notification to Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® applicants.
- May 4, 2021: In-person/virtual orientation and launch meeting for program participants and advisors.
- May 2021 – September 2021: Course 101 online lessons with cohort and advisor on-line discussions.
- September 30, 2021: Second in-person meeting for program participants and advisors. Recap of Course 101, review Course 201 online lessons, and Capstone Project.
- October 2021 – April 2021: Course 201 online lessons and Capstone Project development and implementation.
- April 12, 2021: Final in-person meeting for program participants and advisors. Capstone Project presentations by program participants.

How will program participants be assessed?

The NAESP Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® will offer multiple methods for program participants to assess their learning. Initially, participants will complete an assessment of their current skills and practices. Then cohort participants will assess their knowledge and application of each competency in the *Leading Learning Communities: A Principal's Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades (Pre-K-3rd)*. Program participants and advisors will also complete surveys following each in-person meeting and complete a final program evaluation noting the effectiveness of the NAESP Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® on their school, level of leadership and professional growth. Upon completion of the blended program coursework, advisors will guide participants through the development and implementation of a culminating Capstone Project focused specifically on each participant's unique experiences and application of learning. The final in-person Capstone Project sharing meeting will be the culminating activity and add lasting value to the professional growth of each program participant.