

## **District-Level Leader Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership in 2021-2022**

### **Program Goals:**

To graduate educational leaders with the knowledge, skills, ethics, and motivation to:

1. transform educational organizations;
2. facilitate student success; and,
3. respond affirmatively to the increasing expectations of their various communities in a technological society and a global environment.

### **Student Learning Outcomes** (based on the new National Educational Leadership Preparation (NELP) standards for **District-Level** Leaders)

1. Mission, Vision, & Core Values:

Leadership candidates who successfully complete a district level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capability to promote the success and wellbeing of each student, teacher, and leader by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary for: (1) a shared mission and vision; (2) a set of core values; (3) and continuous and sustainable district and school improvement.

2. Ethics & Professionalism:

Leadership candidates who successfully complete a district level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capability to promote the success and wellbeing of each student, teacher, and leader by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary for: (1) professional norms; (2) ethical behavior; (3) responsibility; and (4) ethical behavior.

3. Equity & Cultural Leadership:

Leadership candidates who successfully complete a district level educational leadership preparation program promote the success and wellbeing of each student, teacher, and leader by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary for: (1) equitable treatment; (2) equitable access; (3) culturally and individually responsive practice; and (4) a healthy district culture.

4. Instructional Leadership:

Leadership candidates who successfully complete a district level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capability to promote the success and wellbeing of each student, teacher, and leader by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary through: (1) systems of learning and instruction; (2) instructional capacity; (3) professional development of principals; and (4) principal effectiveness.

4. Community & External Leadership:

Leadership candidates who successfully complete a district level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capability to promote the success and wellbeing of each student, teacher, and leader by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary for: (1) community engagement; (2) productive partnerships; (3) two-way communication; and (4) representation.

6. Management of People, Data, & Processes:

Leadership candidates who successfully complete a district level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capability to promote the success and wellbeing of each student, teacher, and leader by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary for effectively managed: (1) district systems; (2) resources; (3) human resources; and (4) policies and procedures.

7. Policy, Governance, & Advocacy:

Leadership candidates who successfully complete a district level educational leadership preparation program understand and demonstrate the capability to promote the success and wellbeing of each student, teacher, and leader by applying the knowledge, skills, and commitments necessary to: (1) understand and foster Board relations; (2) understand and manage effective systems for district governance; (3) understand and ensure compliance with policy, laws, rules and regulations; (4) understand and respond to local, state and national decisions; and (5) advocate for the needs and priorities of the district.

8. Internship & Clinical Practice:

Program completers engaged in a substantial and sustained educational leadership internship experience that developed their capability **to promote the success and well-being of each student, teacher, and leader through field experiences and clinical practice within a building setting, monitored and evaluated by a qualified, on-site mentor.**

### Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

- **Timeline.** Assessment of learning outcomes occurs via benchmark assignments found throughout the Educational Leadership curriculum as approved by CAEP accreditation standards. The timeline for assessment and analysis is not particular to individual learning outcomes, but instead is ongoing through the coursework and eventually a culminating activity (the internship and in-box assessment). Each of the NELP standards connects to at least one course or internship assessment. In some instances, the course assignments serve as internship activities. A final assessment will be done at the end of each spring semester.
- The data from course assignments and internship activities will be stored in TaskStream for ease of program performance evaluation. During the 2017-2018 academic year, the EDLE program piloted a course that incorporated all assignments into the internship experience. This was done to see how the program could provide a more effective and meaningful internship experience throughout the duration of a single course. The faculty will evaluate this pilot project in the fall of 2019, make adjustments and implement the initiative (i.e., course-embedded internship) in additional courses in the fall of 2018. By the end of the 2019-2020 academic year, all M.Ed. core leadership courses will be recording data from internship-based assignments; and it will be determined if this same approach will be used in the Ed.S. This data will be evaluated each semester and the data from the culminating internship experience will be evaluated in the spring of each academic year.
- The desired level of student achievement is all candidates will either meet or exceed the standard as measured by the following:
  - Faculty assessments of course assignments

- Mentor assessment of internship performance
- Assessment scores from the School Superintendent Assessment (SSA)

## Assessment Report 2021-2022

Over the 2021-2022 academic year, the EDLE program went through two major transitions related to data and the way that it is collected. The final approval of the NELP standards for District-level Leadership occurred in the fall of 2018 and a plan to address the new CAEP standards was submitted in December 2018. Because the EDLE program is in the middle of transitioning to new standards, a new data management system and a new culminating activity, data were collected through the culminating internship experience as well as the School Superintendent Assessment (SSA) to evaluate program performance for the 2018-2019 academic year. The program will continually revise and realign the course assignments, internship experiences, and culminating assessment to the NELP standards. It should be noted that the District-Level NELP standards approval process has been roughly one-year behind the Building-Level NELP standards and were just recently approved in the fall of 2018. The revised SSA was finally approved in spring 2019 and will go into effect in Fall of 2020.

### **NELP Standards:**

Below is a table depicting the average scores for each NELP standard for district-level leadership. The scores are based on a three (3) point scale (0 = “non-existent” 1= “emerging” 2 = “sufficient” and 3 = “exceeds”)

<b>NELP District-Level Standards and Related Elements</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
<b>Standard One: One: Mission, Vision, and Core Values</b>	<b>2.81</b>
<b>Element 1.1 (MISSION AND VISION)</b>	
Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to analyze and communicate a data-informed shared mission and vision for the school district focused on the academic success and overall <u>well-being of each student and district and school personnel.</u>	
<b>Element 1.2 (CORE VALUES)</b>	
Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to promote core democratic values that define the district’s culture and stress the imperative of child-centered education such as high <u>expectations and student support, equity, inclusiveness, social justice, openness, caring, and trust.</u>	
<b>Standard Two: Ethics and Professional Norms</b>	<b>2.80</b>
<b>Element 2.1 (PROFESSIONAL NORMS)</b>	
Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to enact the professional norms of integrity, fairness, transparency, trust, collaboration, perseverance, learning and continuous <u>improvement in their actions, decision making and relationships with others.</u>	
<b>Element 2.2 (MODEL)</b>	

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Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to model ethical behavior in their personal conduct, relationships with others, decision-making, and stewardship of the district's resources.

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**Element 2.3 (RESPONSIBILITY)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to ensure that unethical and unprofessional actions are addressed promptly and appropriately throughout the organization.

**Standard Three: Equity and Cultural Leadership**

**2.80**

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**Element 3.1 (EQUITABLE TREATMENT)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to develop, implement and evaluate equitable district policies and systems that ensure that each stakeholder is treated fairly, respectfully, and with an understanding of culture and context.

**Element 3.2 (EQUITABLE ACCESS)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to ensure that each student has equitable access to resources and support such as effective teachers, learning opportunities, academic, social and behavioral support.

**Element 3.3 (CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PRACTICE)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to support the development of culturally responsive practices among teachers and staff so they are able to recognize, confront and alter institutional biases of student marginalization, deficit-based schooling, and low expectations associated with race, class, culture and language, gender and sexual orientation, and disability or special status.

**Standard Four: Instructional Leadership**

**2.85**

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**Element 4.1 (SYSTEMS OF LEARNING AND INSTRUCTION)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to analyze and manage district-wide use of coherent and technologically appropriate systems of curriculum, instruction, assessment, student services, and instructional resources that embody high expectations for student learning and align with academic standards across grade levels.

**Element 4.2 (INSTRUCTIONAL CAPACITY)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to plan for the support of principals and other school leaders to develop collective and individual instructional capacity of teachers and other staff members.

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**Element 4.3 (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF PRINCIPALS)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to promote systems of support, coaching, and professional development for individual principals to help them grow as instructional leaders.

**2.80**

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**Element 4.4 (PRINCIPAL EFFECTIVENESS)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to analyze and use research-anchored systems of principal supervision, evaluation, and feedback to improve principal practice.

**2.75**

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**Standard Five: Community and External Leadership****2.75**

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**Element 5.1 (COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to engage families, community, public, private, and non-profit sectors in meaningful ways.

**Element 5.2 (PARTNERSHIPS)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to sustain productive partnerships with communities and public, private, and non-profit sectors to recognize and celebrate school and community improvement.

**Element 5.3 (TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to maintain ongoing, two-way communication with families and the community to develop an understanding of the diverse interests, needs, and resources of the district community in the service of student development and educational improvement.

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**Standard Six: Management of People, Data, & Processes****2.58**

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**Element 6.1 (MANAGING SYSTEMS)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to manage the district's systems, including administration, management, governance, finance, and operations.

**Element 6.2 (RESOURCES)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to seek, acquire, and manage fiscal resources, physical resources, technological resources, data, and other resources to support student learning, collective professional capability and community, and family engagement.

**Element 6.3 (HUMAN RESOURCES)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to manage the growth of individual and collective capability through systems of hiring, retention, development, supervision of school and district personnel, and pathways for effective leadership succession.

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**Standard Seven: Policy, Governance, & Advocacy****2.50**

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**Element 7.1 (BOARD RELATIONS)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to foster a respectful and responsive relationship with the District's Board of education.

**Element 7.2 (DISTRICT GOVERNANCE)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to manage effective systems for district governance.

**Element 7.3 (LEGAL)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to ensure compliance with applicable policy, laws, rules, and regulations.

**Element 7.4 (POLICY ENGAGEMENT)**

Program completers understand and demonstrate the capability to appropriately respond to local, state, and national decisions.

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**Standard Eight: Internship and Clinical Practice****2.79**

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**Element 8.1 (FIELD EXPERIENCES)****Standard Five: Community and External Leadership**

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Candidates are provided a coherent, authentic, district-based field experiences/clinical internships that provide opportunities to synthesize and apply the content knowledge, develop and refine the professional skills, and demonstrate their capabilities as articulated in each of the elements included in N E L P District-Level Program Standards one through seven.

**Element 8.2 (SUSTAINED)**

Candidates are provided a minimum of six-months of concentrated (10 - 15 hours per week) district-level internship or clinical experiences that include authentic leadership experiences within a district setting.

No candidate scored 1.0 (emergent) on any of the elements. As a result, we consider these scores as an indication that our Ed.S. students understand the importance of positive school board relations, some of the pitfalls to be wary of, and some of the strategies needed to navigate the politics of working with a school board.

During 2021-2022, a total of one (1) **Ed.S. /PSDLMC candidates** successfully completed their culminating internship experience:

**Areas of Improvement**

It should be noted that the EDLE programs have been transitioning to the new NELP standards for the several years; the revised SSA went into effect in 2020. The SSA average score reported measures the students understanding of the old ELCC/ISSLC standards even though we have incorporated the new NELP standards for district-level leaders. Overall, students are achieving the standards and they are passing the SSA assessment. The main area of concern is NELP Standard 7.1 – School Board Relations. The EDLE faculty will explore ways in which we can give students more applicable experiences in this area.