



# Iowa Leadership Academy

## **Iowa's Area Education Agencies are partnering with McREL to offer the Iowa Leadership Academy beginning in June 2019!**

The Iowa School Leadership Academy will give school leadership teams in-depth strategies and guidance from McREL's research- and evidence-based knowledge sets of Balanced Leadership, What Matters Most, and Curiosity Works.

Iowa's AEAs are subsidizing the costs to offer special discounted pricing for the academy. The cost is \$400 per person.

At this time, we are seeking potential interest in participation from school leaders not a firm commitment. This information will be used to determine the three locations (west, central, east) for the academies. A fourth location may be added depending on district interest and locations. Each location will offer four sessions over the course of a year beginning June 2019-June 2020.

**If you're interested in participating in the Iowa Leadership Academy, please register [here](#) by October 25, 2018.**

# Iowa Leadership Academy

## Session Overview

**Session 1** | Half-day session in late June 2019

### Balancing leadership for better school performance

In this initial session, your team will gain in-depth understanding of McREL's research-based findings that link specific school leadership practices with higher student achievement. You'll also learn what it means to balance the leadership roles of 1) articulating a vision, 2) building cohesive teams, 3) objectively analyzing performance, and 4) clarifying expectations and driving performance.

- Get new insights into how school leaders can positively impact student achievement and school performance.
- Reflect on your own strengths as a leader and identify opportunities for professional growth.
- Prepare to engage your school staff in a structured process for identifying shared moral purpose—a first step to creating “hopeful urgency” for school improvement and innovation.

**Session 2** | 1.5-day session in late June 2019

### Focusing on the right work

At times, even strong school leaders can have a *negative* effect on student achievement if they don't focus their schools on the right high-leverage improvement efforts or change staff's professional practices in meaningful ways. During this session, you'll explore the What Matters Most pathways, assess where your own school is on the pathways, and identify key next steps for improvement. You'll also learn how to design inquiry-based PD experiences for teachers that really change professional practice.

- Using research on effective schools, identify what matters most right now for your own school to improve student outcomes.
- Learn how to fulfill research-based leadership responsibilities that sustain school focus on doing the right work.
- Develop plans for effective professional learning that ensures your teachers transfer new learning into actual changes in their professional practice.

**Session 3** | 2-day session in early August 2019

### Inspiring and leading change

Any change worth making will require your staff to alter behaviors, routines, and habits—which often leads people to resist the change. Even the best school improvement plans can go awry if leaders don't know how to inspire people to change, which leadership behaviors to emphasize to overcome resistance to change, and how to monitor and sustain the new practices. This session will help your team achieve better results by anticipating and managing obstacles to change.

- Learn the vital differences between first- and second-order perceptions to change.
- Understand and practice using specific leadership responsibilities related to these different types of change.
- Gain new insights into the four phases of change.
- Develop action plans for monitoring implementation of change initiatives and proactively overcoming resistance to change.

**Session 4** | 1-day session in October 2019  
and 1-day session in June 2020

### Developing a purposeful community

Researchers have found a strong link between the level of collegiality and professionalism in a school, and student success. When school communities coalesce around shared purposes, they are more likely to sustain change and momentum. In this highly interactive session, you'll engage in hands-on activities that promote a deep understanding of the importance of creating a purposeful community.

- Explore the four key elements of a “purposeful school community” and how they increase student achievement.
- Learn how to build a purposeful community and create a higher level of collective efficacy in your school.
- Develop plans for creating a positive, continuous-improvement school culture, using the power of asset-based thinking and quick wins.