



USDOE's School Leadership Program

Organization:	North Mississippi Education Consortium
Program Title:	Mississippi Leadership Excellence for Acceleration in Developing Schools Program (MS LEADS)
Program Contact:	Susan Rucker 662-701-8150
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Program Partner(s):	University of Mississippi; Learning Points Associates; National Institute for School Leadership ; Copiah County; Covington County; East Tallahatchie County; Hattiesburg; Hazelhurst City; Indianola; Marshall County; and Sunflower County School Districts

The Mississippi Leadership Excellence for Acceleration in Developing Schools Program (MS LEADS) is a partnership of the North Mississippi Education Consortium (NMEC), the University of Mississippi Institute on Education and Workforce Development (UM), Learning Point Associates (LPA), the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL), and eight high-need Mississippi school districts that educate 21,000 students, many of whom live in poverty and many of whom live in rural areas.

Our proposed project design is to take a research-based leadership development program with a proven track record, enhance it by adding an integrated coaching component, and then implement it on a district-wide basis across all eight districts, having all principals, assistant principals, and other senior district leaders attend the intensive training. These new professional learning communities will form the core of district-wide improvement efforts, facilitate changes in district policies and practices, and pave the way for widespread implementation of best practices. Finally, our proposed design will enhance a well-regarded alternate-route certification program by adding the same research-based, proven leadership development program to it, and using it to train and certify 10 new principals, adding 10 new well-qualified leaders for these eight school districts.

The goal is to improve student achievement, particularly in the 10 schools designated as lowest-performing schools, by enhancing the knowledge and skills of school leaders.