

Kentucky Association of School Superintendents (KASS)  
Description of the Kentucky Superintendents' Academy

Continuing its commitment to support Kentucky's superintendents with the highest quality of ongoing leadership development, KASS proposes to establish and facilitate the Kentucky Superintendents' Academy. The Academy, developed through a partnership with the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL), will serve superintendents in cohorts of 25 members over a two-year period. Members will have 18 days of face-to-face sessions plus 24 hours of self-study and online work. It is anticipated that the first group of volunteer superintendents will number approximately 50 of the state's 173 total, making up the first Academy's "class."

The Academy will be grounded in leadership research from the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) which includes (1) their capstone study, The Nine Building Blocks for a World-Class Education System and (2) dimensions of leadership taken from business and from military education. The framework and design for the Academy will stem from the research's conclusions as to the most critical factors for highly effective schools, examined through global, state (particularly ESSA), and local contexts. The expected outcome is that superintendents will plan and begin the coherent redesign (or refinement) of their district's systemic structures and policies aligned to the research findings and expressed through a comprehensive Action Learning Project.

In each of the two years, superintendent participants will

1. Attend a three-day summer session and three 2-day sessions during the school year
2. Complete face-to-face and independent study involving analysis of core curriculum texts, case studies, lectures via video, and of a gap analysis of KY compared to other states and countries
3. Participate in the cohort Community of Practice via face-to-face and online discussion and collaborative problem solving
4. Design an Action Learning Project which is
  - a. either individual or multi-district
  - b. supported by specifically designed seminars and learning walks in regional schools
  - c. refined as it is reviewed and vetted by peers, state leaders, and national NISL facilitators
  - d. developed with the engagement of wider stakeholders for consensus building in the districts
  - e. integrated with the district's overall strategic plan
  - f. formally presented as the culmination of the course
5. Join KASS and other state and national agents in the co-design of opportunities for continuing professional growth sessions and online networking activities.

KASS is raising funds toward scholarships of 75% coverage of costs for participants. The remaining 25% cost would be charged to participants. Expected 1<sup>st</sup> cohort to start in April, 2017. Please contact Tom Shelton at [tom.shelton@kysupts.org](mailto:tom.shelton@kysupts.org) or (859) 351-6884 if you are interested in learning more and / or participating.