

Abstract
Middle-Grades Leadership Development (MLD), Development Grant
Priority #1, a.

MLD leverages practices to increase achievement by *developing principals* in 12 middle schools in Michigan and Kentucky affecting a total of 9,700 students to increase *equitable access to* quality leaders and is novel in its focus on leaders for the middle grades, an important time for keeping students on-track for graduation. ***The project goal is to increase student achievement.***

Objectives and actions include 1) ***Develop distributive leadership*** (*All schools establish leadership teams that meet twice monthly*) Coaches and principal mentors help schools establish teams then work on communication, trust-building, data analysis, and action planning; mentor schools shares and model best practice, 2) ***Improve collaboration skills*** (*Principals improve leadership ratings on VAL ED. Shared decision-making ratings increases on Self-Study in 9/12 schools*) Coach trains MLD team in vision and criteria to transform culture and climate. Principal mentors help hone leadership skills, 3) ***Implement strategies to increase student achievement*** (*100% of schools initiate at least 3 strategies*) MLD teams examine data, investigate practices, and develop appropriate plans with the coaching and mentor help. 4) ***Build collaborative relationship with district*** (*100% of schools have district involved at least 85% of MLD meetings*) District leader(s) participate, advocate, and plan with MLD team and school leadership team and 5) ***Use Schools to Watch network*** (*100% of schools make at least 4 visits yearly*) The MLD school is given a mentor school partner. This proposal is novel in its use of the Schools to Watch Network to accelerate innovation in the consortium schools. Partners are the California League of Middle Schools, the Kentucky Middle School Association, and Institute for Excellence in Education in Michigan. The evaluator is the Center for Prevention Research and Development, University of Illinois.