

**RURAL WEST VIRGINIA
PRINCIPAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

U.S. Department of Education
School Leadership Demonstration Program – CFDA No. 84.363A

ABSTRACT

The School Districts of Fayette County, McDowell County, and Raleigh County, located in rural West Virginia, propose a customized and innovative principal leadership development model that will immediately address the target districts' critical need for highly qualified administrators, have a positive impact on student outcome data, and will be sustainable. The proposed model, entitled *Building School Leadership Capacity in Rural WV*, will be the only school leadership training program in the state that will include training and assessment of the six model standards and assessments for school administrators developed by the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC). The program is specifically designed to develop school leadership capacity in rural high-need school districts at all grade levels. It is a Community of Practice model that includes significant problem-based learning activities combined with on-site performance monitoring and feedback, self-reflection, inquiry, and the improvement of practice in a positive, supportive, collegial context. It will make use of technology as a training medium, thereby allowing greater access to participants in the targeted rural, high-need school districts. The model is highly replicable and has a very strong research base to support its effectiveness.

The goals will be to improve the quality of school leaders in the high-need districts involved in the project, improve student academic growth, decrease the principal turnover rate, and build a sustained infrastructure for principal development training.