

Teaching & Learning/Educator Talent and Workforce Development/Leader Development

Principal Site Visits Overview

A Component of the Principal Aspiring for Career Excellence (PACE) Banner

Currently, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) offers a robust set of resources and supports designed to meet the needs of aspiring and early-career principals. Additionally, principals who have reached a certain level of success are encouraged to serve as mentors and role models for aspiring and novice leaders. Yet, the vast majority of school leaders in Louisiana do not fit into any of these categories (aspiring, novice, or publicly recognized as “successful”).

To address this gap, the LDOE has created the Principals Aspiring for Career Excellence (PACE) banner, designed to provide additional opportunities for leaders to grow their skills and knowledge to benefit schools and students. The available avenues for support to school leaders under this banner comprise four distinct pillars: Principal Newsletters, Quarterly Webinars, Site Visits, and Affinity Cohorts. These options are available to all leaders within Louisiana, regardless of tenure, and any leader interested in participating in one of these program components can register using the [Principal Development Opportunities Landing Page](#).

PACE Vision

Every student, teacher, school, and community deserves an educational leader who is highly competent, capable, and determined to provide an education focused on high-quality instruction, safety, and strong, effective management.

PACE Mission

School leaders navigate numerous challenges in their roles, but they are united by a core mission: improving student achievement on all internal and state-mandated measures. The PACE program aims to support the individual needs of school leaders across Louisiana by providing consistent, focused leadership development. The program defines, models, and clearly communicates effective leadership practices while offering meaningful opportunities for personal growth aligned with the needs of students, teachers, schools, and communities. In this way, the LDOE supports all in achieving the success they so richly deserve.

Site Visits

Through the [Principal of the Year Program](#) and the [Louisiana Models of Excellence](#) award programs, the LDOE has recognized schools, systems, and leaders who are at the forefront of leading the charge for programs and endeavors that are fundamentally altering how we educate in an effort to expand opportunities for students to achieve and grow beyond the norm. However, historically, while the awarding of these programs came with great fanfare, other systems, schools, and leaders were required to seek out more information on their own, because little was done to support schools and systems in replicating the innovative work of these exemplary school leaders. This is no longer the case with the advent of PACE and **Principal Site Visits**.

Through this program, the LDOE will identify and collaborate with leaders and schools that have distinguished themselves by implementing a range of school programs that accelerate student achievement. This program will enable the LDOE to host 3-4 school site visits per year at schools across the state, allowing individual leaders to register to participate in a way that best serves their needs.

Site Visit Identification

- The LDOE will identify school leaders implementing innovative, yet successful school programs that could be emulated in other schools.
- The LDOE will collaborate with that leader to host other school leaders on their campus for a full day of observation, learning, and discussion for all attending principals.
- Enrollment opportunities will be posted to the PACE: Site Visit landing page, and principals will be able to register for attendance through Eventbrite. Attendance will be offered at ***no cost to participants***.

Site Visit Agenda

- The anticipated outline for an LDOE-led site visit:
 - Introduction of the school leader and the program
 - School leader deep dive into the program
 - School leaders tour the campus to observe the program in action
 - Observation debrief with the identified school leader and other responsible parties from the host campus
 - Lunch on your own
 - The afternoon will be devoted to structured time for school leaders to meet in groups, debrief the program, and begin collaborative planning for implementing the program or a variation on their own campuses

Site visits allow principals more time to collaborate with peers and identify best practices in context. Because of the practical nature of the visits, principals are more likely to implement the new learning on their own campus.

Any questions about Principal Site Visits should be directed to LouisianaLeaders@la.gov.