



Aspiring Principal Fellowship 2026-2027

Program Overview

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is proud to offer the sixth cohort of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship (APF) for the 2026–2027 school year. This selective, year-long leadership fellowship supports up to 50 aspiring school leaders as they prepare to step confidently into the principalship.

Through immersive learning experiences, statewide collaboration, and direct engagement with exemplary Louisiana principals, fellows develop the knowledge, skills, and leadership habits necessary to lead schools toward high-quality instruction, strong school environments, and improved student outcomes.

Participants engage in:

- Full-day, on-site school visits with high-performing principals.
- Collaborative professional learning aligned to Louisiana's academic vision.
- Job-embedded leadership practice grounded in real school contexts.

By the conclusion of the fellowship, participants will have developed a comprehensive leadership portfolio, gained insight from effective school leaders across the state, and built a statewide professional network to support their leadership journey.

Vision

Every Louisiana student, teacher, school, and community deserves a principal who leads with clarity, competence, and an unwavering commitment to high-quality instruction, safety, and effective school operations.

Mission

The mission of the Aspiring Principal Fellowship is to prepare future principals with the instructional leadership expertise, operational knowledge, and professional confidence required to lead schools that foster student achievement and teacher success.

The Aspiring Principal Fellowship is intentionally aligned to Louisiana's Education Priorities and the Louisiana Leader Rubric (LLR). Learning experiences are designed to develop and strengthen leadership practices aligned to the competencies by which principals are evaluated and that directly impact teaching and learning.

Fellows will engage in learning experiences focused on:

- Instructional leadership and coaching.
- Using the Louisiana Educator Rubric to provide meaningful feedback, coach teachers effectively, and strengthen instructional practice across classrooms.
- Leading the effective implementation of High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) in math and literacy to ensure standards-aligned, content-rich instruction for all students.
- Literacy and numeracy leadership.

- Using multiple data sources to diagnose needs, monitor progress, and drive continuous improvement at the classroom and school levels.
- Designing schedules and staffing structures that maximize instructional time, support teachers, and improve student learning outcomes.

Program Structure & Commitment

Participants will attend in-person sessions throughout the year, including full-day school visits and collaborative learning meetings. Fellows will be assigned to one of two cohorts to support deep learning and relationship building.

Tentative Schedule (2026–2027):

- June 2026 Introductory Session (Teacher Leader Summit)
- August 2026 Cohort Meeting (Baton Rouge)
- September 2026 School Site Visit
- October 2026 School Site Visit
- January 2027 School Site Visit
- March 2027 School Site Visit
- April 2027 Culminating Cohort Session (Baton Rouge)

Specific dates and school sites will be shared upon acceptance.

Application & Participation Details

- Application Deadline: Spring 2026 (date forthcoming)
- Notification of Acceptance: Late Spring 2026
- Program Tuition: \$1,000. Travel expenses (mileage, lodging, meals) are the responsibility of the participant's school system.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Current EDL 1 license or proof of eligibility
- Assurance of support from the applicant's principal and superintendent, including:
 - Permission to attend all fellowship sessions
 - Coverage of travel expenses, and
 - Payment of program tuition.

Participants may request cancellation before the first school visit. Once the fellowship begins, no refunds will be issued.

Contact Information

For questions or additional information, please contact: louisianaleaders@la.gov.