



Cohort Questions and Answers

What is the NAESP Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy®?

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP™) Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® is a program designed to promote and build the capacity of national principals, assistant principals, teacher leaders, and directors to lead Pre-K-3 communities.

Who is sponsoring this initiative?

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP™), Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), and the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECA) are partnering to provide high-quality professional learning and a resource program to meet the needs of elementary principals, assistant principals, teacher leaders, and Pre-K program directors serving children from age three to eight or Pre-K-Grade 3.

Will participants be assessed a program fees?

Due to the collaborative partnership of NAESP™, Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS), and the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (ADECA), the NAESP Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® is being provided free of charge. Program participants will attend and participate in three in-person and/or virtual meetings as described in the tentative program timeline listed below and will be responsible for their own travel expenses to/from each meeting.

How will content and training be delivered?

The program will consist of a multifaceted and highly engaging blended professional learning environment that will include three in person and/or virtual meetings, multi-media online coursework, and collaboration with peers in a learning management system through on-line discussions and group Zoom meetings. The culminating Capstone Project will provide program participants with an opportunity to apply what they are learning to their current setting. Cohort participants will, with the guidance and support of a trained Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® Advisor, progress through the online training program that is aligned to NAESP™'s foundational competency guide, *Leading Learning Communities: A Principal's Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades (Pre-K–3rd Grade)*. Cohort participants and advisors will also participate in

three in-person and/or virtual full-day learning sessions to help take theory, learning, and content into practice.

What are the six competencies that characterize *Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities: Competencies for Effective Principal Practice*?

- Understand Child Development and Its Implications for High-Quality Instruction and Interactions, Pre-K–3rd Grade
- Develop and Foster Partnerships with Families and Communities
- Embrace and Enact a Pre-K–3rd Grade Vision
- Ensure Equitable Opportunities
- Share Leadership and Build Professional Capacity
- Promote a Culture of Continuous Improvement

What are the program prerequisites?

While the program will be particularly focused on selecting principals, assistant principals, teacher leaders, and directors in underperforming schools/programs, applications are encouraged and will be considered by any principal, director, or leader of a Pre-K-3 school or agency.

What is the tentative program timeline?

- September 1, 2023: Applications released.
- April 1, 2024: Applications due to CLAS by 4:30 p.m. CST
- April 12, 2024: Notification to Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® applicants.
- April 19, 2024: Program timeline released to participants and advisors.
- May 9, 2024: In-person orientation and launch meeting for program participants and advisors.
- May 2024 – September 2024: Course 101 online lessons with cohort and advisor on-line discussions.
- September 19, 2024: Second in-person meeting for program participants and advisors. Recap of Course 101, review Course 201 online lessons, and Capstone Project.
- September 2024 – April 2025: Course 201 online lessons and Capstone Project development and implementation.
- April 3, 2025: Final in-person meeting for program participants and advisors. Capstone Project presentations by program participants.

How will program participants be assessed?

The NAESP Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® will offer multiple methods for program participants to assess their learning. Initially, participants will complete an assessment of their current skills and practices. Then cohort participants will assess their knowledge and application of each competency in the *Leading Learning Communities: A Principal’s Guide to Early Learning and the Early Grades (Pre-K–3rd)*.

Program participants and advisors will also complete surveys following each in-person meeting and complete a final program evaluation noting the effectiveness of the NAESP Pre-K-3 Leadership Academy® on their school, level of leadership and professional growth. Upon completion of the blended program coursework, advisors will guide participants through the development and implementation of a culminating Capstone Project focused specifically on each participant's unique experiences and application of learning. The final in-person Capstone Project sharing meeting will be the culminating activity and add lasting value to the professional growth of each program participant.