



Developing Leaders for Lutheran Schools

Purpose

Lutheran schools are one of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) premier agencies providing a high-quality Christian education in early childhood, elementary and secondary schools. Today the shrinking pool of qualified, competent, and Christian leaders has created a crisis for many schools. To address this critical issue, the School Leadership Development Project (SLED) was created. Its sole purpose is to identify, encourage and prepare early childhood, elementary and secondary school leaders to serve in leadership roles ensuring that the next generation of children hear the beautiful Gospel message of God's promise of eternal life while preparing for a life of Christian citizenship. It is essential that the recruitment and training of current and future leaders remains a priority.

Plan

SLED is a year-long professional development experience consisting of two on-site events led by leaders in Lutheran education and designed specifically for aspiring teacher leaders and administrators who are new in their leadership positions.

Two Events

Events I and II are three-day training events conducted by the LCMS SLED Leadership Team in June (events are held consecutively one year apart) in St. Louis. Experts in the field of Lutheran education lead sessions addressing a variety of topics that leaders experience in Lutheran schools. Participants work with their mentors throughout the year and stay connected through email, text and conference calls. Blackboard is used for assignments, journaling and submission of activities. Additionally, participants identify a significant leadership project that is developed throughout the year to benefit the schools they currently serve.

At the conclusion of the second event, participants are awarded *School Leadership Development Endorsement* from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Additionally, participants can receive three hours of graduate credit for successful completion of SLED from Concordia University, Nebraska or Concordia University, Wisconsin.

SLED Alumni Respond

"I appreciated that throughout the SLED experience, our table had time to discuss different aspects of the conference speakers' presentations. This allowed us to infuse our own personal experiences and gain insight into how we'd work through situations as a lead administrator."

"Relationship building; learning from gifted, godly veterans; live-time application of leadership activities is invaluable; preparing the next generation of leaders is our priority...thank you for the ongoing investment in this program."

“Each one (topic) was chosen to specifically target new or learning school leaders, and they were also significant for those of us who have been in ‘the chair’ for quite some time. I like that they are changed up a bit, including the high-level interviews.”

“I really loved everyone’s feedback and input. It shaped a great experience for me.”

“SLED is a completely effective professional development program that really is a circle of support and encouragement with outstanding faculty and opportunities for principals already in the field to successfully serve as mentors. There is a sense of real importance with being blessed by Synod's top school ministry leaders. The entire year is covered in prayer and our schools can actually receive the greatest benefit in calling a SLED-trained administrator.”

Application Process

Pray about God’s plan for your ministry. Talk to your principal today. The principal submits the name of the interested educator to the education executive in the school’s LCMS district. The education executive completes the nomination form and submits it to the LCMS School Ministry office. All nominated candidates receive a SLED application packet. Applications are reviewed and participants are selected by the SLED Project Management Team to participate in the year-long training experience.

The cost to each SLED participant is \$500. Travel, housing and meals are covered for the participant by generous donors who care deeply about the next generation of children attending Lutheran schools. Contact LCMS School Ministry with any questions or further information.



The School Leadership (SLED) Project is a ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) School Ministry Office. All inquiries should be directed to:

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