Overview  Schools must provide students with experiences both in and beyond the classroom that build the skills they need for future success. Yet education leaders face limited resources, workforce challenges, and conflicting constituent demands. As a result, creating the quality of schools that our rapidly changing and challenging world demands requires leaders to be dynamic and entrepreneurial change agents.

Stanford Graduate School of Education and Stanford Graduate School of Business join forces to offer Stanford’s Executive Program for Education Leaders (EPEL). The program supports the development of innovative, problem-solving management skills and leadership capacity for current superintendents and other central office leaders.

Program Features

The year-long program incorporates case-study and research-based presentations, discussions, and exercises led by Stanford GSE and GSB faculty. The program also provides opportunities for cohort learning and group work within and across district teams.

Who Should Attend

Stanford invites superintendents across all levels of experience and from all types of districts in California to apply. Applicants must identify an organizational challenge and designate cabinet members to attend EPEL as part of the district team. Examples of ideal team members are an assistant superintendent of human resources, an assistant superintendent of curriculum/teaching and/or a chief budget officer.

Superintendents should select two Curriculum & Instructional leaders to join them during Weekend 1 and two Operations leaders to join them during Weekend 2.

Larger districts may opt to invite additional team members at an additional fee (space permitting).
CURRICULUM

EPEL's curriculum addresses the expressed needs of districts in the current education policy context, building on the cutting-edge research of Stanford faculty. Program takeaways span salient leadership, management, and education issues. Topics covered may include:

General Management

- Developing, Motivating, and Managing Human Capital
- Defining and Implementing Strategies Effectively
- Crisis Management
- Design Thinking
- Data-based Decision-Making

Educational Leadership

- Leading and Supporting Workforce Learning
- Creating and Improving Management-Labor Collaboration
- Implementing and Assessing Reform
- Effectively Harnessing Technological Innovations in Education
- Turning Around Low-Performing Schools

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

EPEL is designed to build individual, team, and cohort leadership capacity.

**Individual:** Innovative strategic thinking, ability to drive change and motivate others

**Team:** Strengthen teamwork, scale excellence across the district

**Cohort:** External collaboration, support

PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND DATES

The program kicks off with a 5-day residential deep dive into the challenges of and skills needed for effective leadership. This portion combines a focus on general management and leadership with in-depth analysis of strategies to address challenges faced by schools and districts. The summer program is reserved for superintendents so they may reflect on leadership challenges specific to their position and learn from their peers.

Two additional weekends on-campus reunite the cohort and faculty for further sessions and collaborative work. Selected district leaders, who themselves manage significant organizational demands, join their superintendents to extend the leadership and management work, build the central-office team, and focus on district goals and strategies. These weekends include additional faculty sessions and opportunities for teams to apply their learning to their own organizational challenges.

WHY SHOULD MY DISTRICT TEAM ATTEND?

Effective district leadership requires continual development of individual and team leadership capacity. EPEL is designed to help superintendents and their teams build this capacity while considering their own district-level leadership challenges. EPEL faculty are the same GSE and GSB faculty teaching in the MBA, MA, and PhD programs at Stanford, known for developing entrepreneurial leaders across for-profit and non-profit sectors. In EPEL, faculty and guest speakers use recent research and their own considerable experiences to help district leaders implement meaningful and effective reforms in their districts, both as managers and as entrepreneurial catalysts for change.

EPEL participants also build a strong network of relationships with a diverse group of peers who share the California context, strengthen their district team and support system, and expand their opportunities for extended cohort learning.
PROGRAM FEE

Stanford Graduate School of Education and Stanford Graduate School of Business are generously subsidizing EPEL. As a result, the typical cost of $19,000 per participant is reduced to $7,000 per district.

This fee covers tuition and course materials during the program as well as accommodations and meals during the on-campus portions for one superintendent (summer & weekends) and 2-4 district team members (two during each weekend).

PROGRAM FACULTY DIRECTORS

Susanna Loeb
Barnett Family Professor of Education, Stanford Graduate School of Education

Larissa Tiedens
Jonathan B. Lovelace Professor of Organizational Behavior, Stanford Graduate School of Business

Senior Associate Dean, Stanford Graduate School of Business

ADMINISTRATION

The admissions committee seeks to create a diverse participant class in order to foster deep cohort learning and network building opportunities. Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis, typically three to six weeks after application submission. Space is limited.

To apply, please visit seli.stanford.edu/apply/epel

For specific questions regarding EPEL, please contact
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For more information, please visit seli.stanford.edu

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EPEL is offered through the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative, a joint initiative of Stanford Graduate School of Education and Stanford Graduate School of Business.