

# PRINCIPAL CREDENTIAL COHORT

*Equipping Future Lutheran School Leaders for Success*



**PRINCIPAL  
CREDENTIAL**

I wanted to be fully trained before stepping into this role.

Principal Phil Gustafson  
MS Ed Admin '19

# Thriving Schools Need Skilled Leaders

Students, parents, and congregations expect that their schools not only survive but thrive. School administration has become increasingly complex including responsibilities that demand far more specialized training than a bachelor's degree in education affords.

Successful Lutheran school principals establish a Christ-centered environment, high student achievement, and safe conditions. They manage financial challenges and employ effective marketing tools. They develop both long-term strategic plans and handle daily administrative details. They serve as leader, collaborator, and communicator with their faculty, board, parents, and student body.



## The Need for Principals

Due to retirements, reassignments, and resignations, Lutheran Schools need approximately 30 new principals each year. Over the last five years an average of 5 new principals a year have started. In 2020, 30 schools started the year without a permanent principal.

The Principal Credential Cohort equips veteran teachers to serve as principals *before* they receive a principal call. Congregations that call these principals then agree to give them the time and compensation needed for long-term, faithful service.

## Pathway to the Principalship

Members of the Principal Credential Cohort

- receive encouragement and support from mentors and other cohort members
- attend at least three leadership training events, including a national leadership conference
- typically enroll in MLC's MS in Education Administration program and receive a 50% scholarship for their coursework
- and/or demonstrate competence in the WELS Principal Standards.



# Joining a Principal Credential Cohort

Eligible cohort candidates

- have three or more years of successful teaching experience
- are not currently serving as a principal
- possess leadership gifts and characteristics

For more information on joining a cohort or nominating a future leader for cohort participation contact the WELS Lutheran Schools office  
lutheranschools@wels.net.

For more information on the principal credential and continuing education programs visit [mlc-wels.edu](http://mlc-wels.edu).

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