

Principal Preparation Implementation Review Project (I-PREP)

Illinois Education Research Council and the Consortium on Chicago School Research

Overview

This mixed methods research study will describe how the new principal preparation policies are being implemented, the vision behind the new policies and the theory of action for how it will improve school leadership, which aspects of the implementation have been challenging and why they present challenges, and how successful programs are addressing challenges and realizing improvements in the preparation of their candidates. To do this, researchers will: 1) interview statewide partners and stakeholders about their perceptions of the vision and the implementation; 2) conduct site visits to 12 programs that offer the new principal preparation endorsement and interview key university faculty and stakeholders and district and community partners to gain in-depth knowledge about the implementation of the policies and transition process; and, 3) survey all new principal preparation programs to gain a broad view of the types of the obstacles programs have encountered, as well as catalysts for successful implementation.

Timeline

- Summer 2014: recruit project advisory board, identify scan participants, and develop scan protocols
- Fall 2014 and Winter 2015: conduct statewide scan and analyze scan data
- Spring 2015: publish interim report and develop case study protocols
- Spring and Fall 2015: conduct case studies and develop statewide survey
- Fall 2015: conduct statewide survey and analyze case study data
- Spring 2016: analyze survey data and publish final report

Status: We have recruited a 26-member project advisory board and held our first meeting on September 19 to provide an overview of the project and solicit feedback on the design and content of the statewide scan and case studies. We are currently conducting the statewide scan interviews, which consist of short (~1 hour) phone interviews with 50 stakeholders, including representatives from each of the approved programs, state and local education agencies, professional organizations, advocacy groups, educational administration faculty and students, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

Statewide Scan Topics

- Knowledge of the new principal preparation program policy
 - Rationale for the policy
 - Goals of the policy
 - Biggest differences between new and old policies
- Experiences with the new principal preparation program policy
 - Implementation of new policy
 - Partnerships between district and program(s)
 - Focus on early education, special education, and English-language learners
- Opinions about the new principal preparation program policy
 - Overall opinion
 - Potential strengths & challenges
 - Strategies to overcome potential challenges
 - Resources for successful implementation
- Expectations for new principal preparation program policy
 - How programs will change
 - Short-term impacts
 - Long-term impacts