

Early Phase Competition -- Absolute Priority 2 (General)  
Regional Office of Education #17  
S411C210087  
**Learning While Leading (LWL) Project**

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## LEARNING WHILE LEADING (LWL) PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Title** Learning While Leading (LWL) Project

**Grant** Education Innovation and Research – Early Phase

**Applicant** Regional Office of Education #17

**Absolute Priorities** #1 (Demonstrates a Rationale) & #2 (Field-Initiated Innovations)

**Competitive Priorities** #2 (Innovative Approaches to Addressing the Impact of COVID on Underserved Students and Educators)

#3 (Promoting Equity and Adequacy in Student Access to Educational (Resources and Opportunities)

**Target # Students** Approximately 25,000 students; >51% in rural schools

**Grade Levels** Elementary, middle and high schools

**Setting** Public schools in rural, suburban, and urban areas LWL will increase principal effectiveness by supporting aspiring and novice school leaders with evidence-based professional enhancement activities that lead to an advanced credential. Goals of LWL include:

- preparing a group of aspiring principals that effectively engage teachers in action research that demonstrate impact on student learning.
- support new principals in establishing a schoolwide system of teacher teams engaged in instructional improvements efforts that result in improved student learning.
- building a statewide system to scale and sustain project supports, services, and positive impact

**Project Description:** LWL Activities: pre-service training and coaching that supports aspiring leaders in successfully completing action research; placement and induction support, and on-going, jobembedded professional development during the in-service phase as a new principal; advanced credentials through the successful completion of the Leadership for Equity micro credentials. External evaluators will explore changes to school culture and the impact of the program on student achievement in math and ELA. **Anticipated Outcomes:**

- Improved school climate
- Improved student outcomes (i.e., attendance, ELA & Math, SEL)
- Increased percentage of principals serving a concentration of high-need students
- Improved principal retention rates
- Increase the number of well-prepared aspiring leaders in pipeline for hard-to-staff schools

**Special Features:** Integration of micro-credentials in equity and English Learners designed to lead to advanced credentials; incorporation of State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Regional Office of Education (ROE) designed to build a local, regional, and state system for scale and sustainability.

**Implementation Sites:** To address leadership vacancies in high-need/hard-to-staff schools, LWL will prioritize selection of 40 schools in traditionally underserved LEAs in rural areas.

**Partners:** Regional Offices of Education #1, 19, 21, 28, and 50; WestEd, Illinois State University

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Center for the Study of Education Policy; Illinois State Board of Education, and the Association of Illinois Rural and Small Schools.