



**Fact:** There are no great schools without great principals.

Investing in new, first-year principals is the key to better school leaders, teachers, and futures for students.

## Opportunity: Illinois' New Principal Induction and Mentoring Program

New, first-year principals receive:

- One-on-one mentorship with experienced academic leaders
- Embedded professional development with Dr. Lionel Allen
- Data utilization and action plan implementation
- Full academic year of job training and cross-district collaboration

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“For a long time, principals were just managers running a building, and that has changed. Mentors help principals take a bigger picture perspective, use data, and implement a plan of action that meets the needs of schools today.”

—Laura O’Donnell  
Superintendent, Olympia CUSD 16

### Training with: Dr. Lionel Allen, Jr.

In addition to his work as founder of *ed Leaders Matter*, Dr. Lionel Allen, Jr. is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), where he teaches a signature pedagogy course on cycles of inquiry and co-leads the full-year residency course for aspiring school leaders. Dr. Allen has over twenty years of experience as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and chief academic officer. He is an education reform consultant, leadership coach, and a frequently invited motivational speaker. In 2005, Arne Duncan, former CPS CEO, selected Dr. Allen to become the first turnaround principal in Illinois. Under his leadership, the Sherman School of Excellence went from the second-worst performing school in Illinois to become a national model and a catalyst for future turnaround efforts across the country. Dr. Allen received his baccalaureate degree from Northwestern University and his master’s and doctoral degrees from University of Illinois at Chicago.

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