

You've been elected to the school board and have experience in how school boards operate, but are you a leader on your board, in your school and community?

Want to enhance your leadership skills, and learn how to lead with purpose? ASBSD is excited to announce the creation of the School Board Leadership Academy (SBLA).

This dynamic course is designed to enhance the leadership skills of school board members. Each session is designed to foster self-reflection and gain new expertise about leadership as well as how to apply that knowledge to their school board work.

Three in-person sessions along with three online meetings, will bring a cohort of 25 current school board members together to learn about leading their school boards and community. Guest speakers, with extensive leadership experience, case studies designed to engage participants in deep conversations, and lessons on effective leadership strategies will engage the cohort in lively meaningful discussions regarding effective leaders do. The course will be facilitated by former ASBSD Executive Director, Dr. Wade Pogany.

SBLA outcomes for the course; participants will:

1. Learn about key principles of effective leadership, and how to apply them.
2. Interact with guest presenters, learning from their leadership experience.
3. Learn the importance of student achievement as a core purpose of schools, understand the fundamentals of student achievement and the need for leadership of student learning.
4. Learn essential skills of working as a team.
5. Learn how leadership is about change and how to affect change.
6. Understand how to lead with purpose.
7. Reflect on their own leadership experience and share with others.

Participants will be asked to create and present a leadership project of their own choosing that demonstrates an activity designed to enhance the goals of their school board and school district.

The course will begin in May, 2024, and continue through January, 2025.

The tentative dates being considered:

- Session #1 (online); March 27, noon to 1:00 (1 hr)
- Session #2 (face-to-face in Pierre); May 8, session runs 10:00am to 3:00pm (5 hrs)
- Session #3 (face-to-face in Pierre); August 14, session runs 10:00am to 3:00pm (5 hrs)
- Session #4 (face-to-face in Pierre); Nov 7, session runs 10:00am to 3:00pm (5 hrs)
- Session #5 (online); Dec. 5, noon to 2:00pm (2 hr)
- Session #6 (online); Jan. 8, noon to 2:00pm. (2 hrs)

Watch for the release of the application in January. The first cohort will be selected based on:

1. Applicant must be a current school board member serving from May 2024 to February 2025.
2. School board members must have, or will have at least 2 years of service as a South Dakota school board member by July, 2024.
3. School districts must agree to pay for all transportation, travel costs and fees associated with the Leadership Academy. Course fee is anticipated to be \$500.
4. Participants must commit to 3 in-person sessions and 3 online sessions as well as a capstone project at the end. University credit will be available.