

2022-23 TEACHER LEADER ACADEMY - FAQs

What is the Teacher Leader Academy?

The Teacher Leader Academy, established in 2015, is an intensive 8 month program led by a faculty of renowned scholars and leading teacher practitioners from across the country. Over the course of the academy experience, highly effective and passionate teachers work with faculty to develop voice, advocacy, and agency. Teacher leaders are equipped and empowered outside of traditional frameworks and are encouraged to work in partnership with principals, parents, policymakers, and other teacher leaders. The Academy is designed to optimize human capital and assist with retaining teachers in Nevada, provide a path for personal growth and/or career advancement, and explore solutions to some of the most complex challenges in public education. Participants who complete this course receive credit towards state recertification and CUs toward CCSD's Professional Growth Plan.

How is the Teacher Leader Academy different from other programs?

Flipping the script on what it means to advance professionally, the Teacher Leader Academy re-imagines career advancement as not just vertical but also as expanded impact and influence. The Academy recognizes that teacher leaders have extensive training and skills in curriculum, pedagogy and instructional methods. The Academy brings to Nevada a roster of faculty that includes renowned scholars and leading practitioners from across the country. Participants are able to practice teacher leader skills and competencies focused around **leadership, engagement, influence/advocacy** and **problem-solving** as they work closely with Academy faculty and interact with their K-12 peers.

The Teacher Leader Academy also incorporates local or state leaders in each course session. These leaders come from the corporate, business or public policy sectors. This component of the program exposes teacher leaders to Nevadans making a difference in the community who share a passion for education. It gives participants an opportunity to grow their network and engage with stakeholders beyond their schools and school community.

How are teachers selected to participate in the Teacher Leader Academy?

The Teacher Leader Academy is designed to empower teacher leaders to stay in the classroom or to move into administration. Qualities of teacher leaders include high-level classroom practitioners, active engagement in the profession, passion and commitment to excellence, and readiness to re-imagine the profession. Teacher leader applicants must complete a written application, which includes three short answer responses. Supervisors must complete a Leadership Behavior Grid. Both the

application and the Leadership Behavior Grid must be submitted by the Principal/Supervisor before the application's due date. A review committee will carefully consider all applicants and select up to 40 participants.

What is my total time commitment to the program?

The Teacher Leader Academy consists of a cohort of leaders, which **include K-12 teachers, central office project facilitators, counselors, psychologists, etc.** Classes are held one Wednesday afternoon (4:30pm – 7:30pm) and Saturday (9am – 5:00pm) each month. Course sessions are held monthly from November through June during the school year and a Completion Ceremony is held in August.

Where are classes held?

All classes are held on the 9th Floor at North Las Vegas City Hall, which is located at 2250 Las Vegas Boulevard North in North Las Vegas, NV 89030.

Does the program have any out-of-pocket expenses for teachers?

Enrollment fees are paid, in part, by school districts, charter schools, and employers. To a greater extent, The Leadership Institute of Nevada underwrites these fees through the support of donors and grantors from the public and private sectors. The remaining fees will be paid by the participant or their organization.

Are substitute teachers provided during participation in the program?

All sessions for the 2022-2023 will be held outside of the school day so no substitutes will be required.

Will I receive credit for participating in the Academy?

Yes, the hours spent in the Academy outside of contract hours are approved to count toward the Clark County School District's Professional Growth Plan (PGP). In addition, teachers selected to participate in the Academy can earn license renewal credit from NDE.

What is the Capstone Project?

All teachers who participate in the Academy must complete a Capstone Project. The project enables participants to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the Academy. The project questions are grounded in current challenges or problems of practice in Nevada public education, and are completed in small groups of 4-5 teachers. The groups are given opportunities to network and provided the support to take action steps to implement their solutions in the following school year.