



The Southwest Turnaround Leadership Consortium

The West Comprehensive Center at WestEd (formerly the Southwest Comprehensive Center) is a federally -funded technical assistance center serving the states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. The WCC (SWCC) formed the Southwest Turnaround Leadership Consortium with Southwestern states to deepen understanding of turnaround work, align turnaround work at all levels of the system: region, state, district and school, and develop a pipeline of leaders in each state specifically trained to turnaround low-performing schools. The Southwest Turnaround Leadership Consortium is partnering with the University of Virginia to establish this turnaround program in the Southwest. This effort was initiated at the request of the chief state school officers to address an urgent need in their states. WestEd was asked to review and identify existing leadership programs that addressed these objectives, had a long-standing record of success, and the credentials, experience and reputation to offer these services in a collaborative structure. WestEd found the University of Virginia's Partnership for Leaders in Education to uniquely meet these criteria.

The Partnership for Leaders in Education at the University of Virginia

In 2003, the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business and the Curry School of Education established a formal partnership – the Darden/Curry Partnership for Leaders in Education (PLE). This partnership was formed in order to strategically combine the most innovative thinking in business and education thereby providing education leaders with the knowledge, tools, skills and resources necessary to meet today's unique demands for managing and governing schools and school systems. In 2004, the PLE launched the UVA-School Turnaround Specialist Program (UVA-STSP), now the most established school turnaround program in the country. It is also the only school turnaround program in existence that utilizes a systemic approach to change by working with school, district, and state-level leadership teams in order to help them build the internal capacity necessary to support and sustain effective school turnarounds. Through work with over 100 schools in nine states, the UVA-STSP has demonstrated that with highly capable school leaders and an aligned, supportive system, chronically under-performing schools can achieve quick, dramatic and sustainable increases in student achievement. The Partnership for Leaders in Education at the University of Virginia is a joint effort of the Darden School of Business, world-renowned as the number one executive leadership development program, and the Curry School of Education.

Over the course of a two-year Southwest Turnaround Leadership Consortium, state, district and school leaders receive the same type of world-class executive education typically provided to top-level business leaders, as well as the support and full access to resources and research.



Benefits of Consortium Membership

By forming a consortium of states, several benefits are shared by participating states and districts.

- Support from the CC provides a structure to deepen understanding of turnaround work at all levels of the system: state, district and school and co-sponsor consortium activities in the SW region.
- Participating Southwest states work collaboratively to develop a pipeline of turnaround leaders and share strategies and approaches to support and sustain turnaround efforts.
- Participating district and school leadership form cohorts to share experiences and support each other in the challenging work of turning around schools.
- A Memorandum of Understanding among the states, WestEd and the University of Virginia PLE outlines the agreements among the partners in the consortium to support and assist district and school leaders in turnaround work.