Without question, this was by far the best professional development I have ever participated in. You masterfully paused the world for our cohort, and with a tangible devotion to servant leadership, enhanced each of us multi-dimensionally. In addition to all we learned, I’m grateful for the enduring relationships we created.

—Katie Sheridan, Director of Language and Early Literacy, Kildeer #96

What Is The IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy And Who Should Participate?

Have you ever wondered what you didn’t learn in graduate school but may need to know in order to be an effective leader? If you are thinking about becoming a school superintendent then #ASuperWeek in July 2021 is for you! This fast-paced program is organized to provide for active learning as well as daily reflection time. In addition, there will be many simulations during the week for hands-on learning opportunities. The Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) Aspiring Superintendent Academy (ASA) is a program for school leaders who are thinking about becoming a superintendent. The five day summer learning academy will hone participants’ leadership knowledge and skills and give them a view of the modern superintendency. Attendees will participate in simulations and produce meaningful artifacts that reflect the current expectations of the job of the superintendent. Click here to learn more about IASA’s Aspiring Superintendent Academy.

What Can I Expect Each Day?

Each day of the Aspiring Superintendent Academy will feature a different accomplished superintendent from across the state of Illinois. They will bring expertise regarding different aspects of the superintendency. In addition to learning from them, you will also be able to add them to your own professional network for future support and collaboration.

Participants Will Produce Usable Artifacts Every Day.

Examples include but are not limited to: video creation, crisis planning, legal issues, principal evaluation, meeting simulation, state of district address, welcome back speech, budget presentations, PTA meeting, resolution of an ethical dilemma, and much more.

Why Should I Participate In The IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy?

- Professional learning network
- Immersive learning experience five days/nights
- Working/networking dinners
- Access to screening interviews with professional search firms
- Illinois Administrators’ Academy Credit
- Relationships that will last your career and your lifetime
The IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy is by far one of the best professional learning events that I have been a part of. The presentations from sitting superintendents and IASA representation allows for practical and applicable knowledge and experience concerning the superintendency. I would highly recommend this academy to all educators considering the superintendency in their future!

—Dr. Jenna Woodland, Assistant Superintendent, Troy #30C

The IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy is professional development as it should be, practical and meaningful. The resources developed during the academy will allow me to be successful from day one. But, it didn’t end there, as the academy focused on the personal aspect of leadership, prompting me to look inside myself and to shape my leadership skills based on who I am.

—Dr. Eric Witges, Principal, Harrisburg CUSD #3
Attending the IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy was a second to none experience. My leadership skills have been greatly enhanced due, in part, to the collaboration that occurred with my new lifetime colleagues and our three awesome facilitators. I have a better working knowledge of the role the district’s Chief Executive plays and how to leverage that position to change the lives of children, empower parents, and unify a community around a shared vision and mission.

—Mario Sherrell, Executive Director of Educational Improvement, Mascoutah #19
In partnership with the Illinois State Board of Education, IASA is pleased to offer five scholarships for aspiring superintendents of color. IASA also offers a limited number of scholarships for aspiring superintendents who may need financial assistance. If you are interested in receiving a scholarship, please complete the “Scholarship” question on the application.

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Scholarships continued
By far one of the most powerful and insightful leadership conferences I have ever attended. The practical and thoughtful course work allows for any aspiring superintendent to understand and apply best practices to their work.

—Faith Cole, Director of MTSS
Oak Park #97

How To Apply...
Completed applications must be submitted by Friday, March 19, 2021. Participation in the IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy will be finalized in early April 2021 and all applicants will be notified via email.

In addition to the online application, please send a letter of support from your District Superintendent via email to Cherry Middleton at cmiddleton@iasaedu.org.

Admission Requirements
IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy admission requirements are set forth as follows:

1. Applicant must be able to attend the entire week. All meetings will be held at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel.
2. Applicant must provide a letter from the District Superintendent indicating support for and understanding of the commitment involved.
3. Applicant must provide a personal narrative indicating
   1) the reason you are making application to the IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy,
   2) what you hope to gain from the program, and
   3) what you can contribute to the other cohort members.
4. Applicant understands the commitment to the time schedule away from the current School District to effectively participate in this program.
5. Applicant agrees to cooperate and fully participate.

Questions?
Contact Cherry L. Middleton
Illinois Association of School Administrators
217–753–2213 or cmiddleton@iasaedu.org

The IASA Aspiring Superintendent Academy will be the most effective and inspiring professional development you will ever attend. Whether you decide to be a superintendent or not, this program will give you a better perspective of educational leadership and make you a better leader than you were before you attended.

—Jeff Baughman, Principal, LeRoy #12