



## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Welcome to Delaware's State Action for Education Leadership Program (SAELP) website. I am proud of the outstanding work that has been done in our state to promote the importance of school leadership. None of this could have been accomplished without the support and cooperation of all of our stakeholders or without the support of the Wallace Foundation.

Effective school leaders focus on the importance of academic achievement and the overall well being of the students in their schools. They understand the importance of providing positive environments for teaching and learning, and they continually seek to improve their practice.

While the focus of our first grant from the Wallace Foundation was primarily on policy issues across the spectrum of our system, this second grant focuses on the significant needs of middle and high schools to ensure high quality school leadership. Given the necessity of secondary schools to improve student achievement, to reduce the drop out rate, and to improve graduation rates, it is clear that a principal and his or her assistants cannot alone manage the changes in culture and practice that must be made in order to achieve these goals.

To that end, our SAELP initiative is working with districts and schools to develop models of succession planning to improve the quality as well as the numbers of available new school leaders and with three middle schools and three high schools to develop models of distributed leadership. While this work is challenging, it is also exciting and holds great promise for the continuous improvement of Delaware's public education system.

It is my hope that the resources contained in this website will provide both assistance and inspiration to all who visit.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Woodruff".

Valerie Woodruff  
Secretary of Education  
Delaware Department of Education