



# Inclusive Instructional Leadership (IIL):

*Fostering District-wide Improvement on Behalf of Each Child*

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OH-AIPL

**Why Participate?** The **Advancing Inclusive Principal Leadership (AIPL)** virtual professional development series supports partner districts in developing or strengthening shared leadership team structures for improving teaching and learning across the district.

Participants increase their knowledge and skill in the use of inclusive instructional leadership to more effectively engage ALL students – regardless of classroom or school assignment – in strong core instruction.

**Improving central office** – school level collaboration to benefit all children is a feature of the program, which focuses on:

- Promoting system-wide learning,
- Prioritizing the improvement teaching and learning,
- Building capacity through support and accountability,
- Sustaining open and collaborative cultures.



**How it Works.** Eight districts will be selected to participate in the program for the 2024-25 project year, with each district identifying up to 7 members to serve as a vertical team. Vertical teams are short-term, ad hoc teams at a designated school within the district to serve as incubator sites for examining how lessons learned in one school can be scaled across all schools in the district. They cross organizational levels and roles in order to augment systemic district-wide continuous improvement efforts and focus on inclusive instructional leadership as a key function of the interlocking teams (DLTs, BLTs, TBTs) that form the foundation of the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP).

Membership must include, at a minimum, the principal and at least one teacher from the designated school, the district superintendent or designee in charge of curriculum and instruction (e.g., Chief Academic Officer, Deputy Superintendent), and the district's director/coordinator of special education-pupil personnel. One team member should be designated as the contact person for the district.

### Synchronous PD Session Schedule

Session 1: September 17, 2024

Session 2: October 29, 2024

Session 3: December 3, 2024

Session 4: January 28, 2025

Session 5: March 4, 2025

Session 6: April 8, 2025

AIPL Convening: June 12, 2025

**Focus of the Professional Learning.** OH-AIPL PD involves six synchronous sessions conducted by Dr. Cathy Lassiter from September through April, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, with the option for more in-depth learning during a second year of involvement. In addition to the synchronous sessions, the program also includes asynchronous learning, which includes in-district and cross-district conversation, access to resources, team time, reflection, and monthly in-district virtual process coaching with the team.

Districts selected for participation will receive a \$5,000 honorarium to offset costs associated with substitute teachers, district and school-level planning, and any in-district travel, if applicable.

**About the Trainer-Facilitator.** Cathy Lassiter, EdD will serve as the trainer for all synchronous PD sessions for the 2024-25 school year. Dr. Lassiter is an international consultant with over 35 years of combined experience as a teacher, principal, central office administrator, and consultant. Her areas of expertise are in school leadership, instruction, and change management. Cathy has worked in schools across the US and Canada, and with teachers and leaders in Australia.



She is the author of a number of leadership books including, *How Leadership Works: A Playbook for Instructional Leaders and Leader Credibility* co-authored with Fisher, Frey & Smith, and *Everyday Courage for School Leaders*, published by Corwin. As a successful middle school principal and Virginia's Middle School Principal of the Year, she concentrated on meeting the needs of all students from all backgrounds by imposing rigorous standards and high expectations. Her passion continues to be working with leaders and teachers to change the lives of all students by improving the education they receive each and every day. Cathy has served as an adjunct professor for The George Washington University, teaching graduate courses in educational leadership. She lives in Virginia and Florida with her husband, Tim, and has two adult children, Brittany and Blake.

## HOW TO APPLY



To be considered as a partner district for the 2024-2025 school year, the superintendent or designee should complete the **application survey** including team member information.

If your district is selected, the program coordinators at the University of Cincinnati Systems Development & Improvement (**UC SDI**) Center will follow up with you in June regarding selection decisions and to provide additional information.



## APPLICATION SURVEY LINK:

Please submit your application no later than **Friday, May 24, 2024**, and contact Libby Wallick, PhD, Inclusive Instructional Leadership Consultant, at [wallycly@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:wallycly@ucmail.uc.edu) with questions.

**Want More?** UC SDI also offers a Central Office Inclusive Instructional Leadership professional learning program in collaboration with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) for individual district central office personnel. If you are interested in that learning opportunity, please contact Libby Wallick at the email above.