

SCHEDULE

The Academy meets monthly from October to May to build leadership awareness and abilities of school personnel. The program begins with an assessment of each school's challenges and assets, along with those of the First Ring. Participants complete Gallup CliftonStrengths to identify and apply their talents. They also engage in case studies, a book study on making a difference in any role, and Teaching Cleveland's experiential, place-based learning of regional history.

- **October 22, 2025** (8:30-3:00)
Session 1 - ESC of Northeast Ohio
Orientation & Foundation for District Leaders
- **November 12, 2025** (8:30-3:00)
Session 2 - Shaker Heights City Schools
- **December 17, 2025** (8:30-3:00)
Session 3 - Warrensville Heights City Schools
- **January 21, 2026** (8:30-3:00)
Session 4 - Fairview Park City Schools
- **February 18, 2026** (8:30-3:00)
Session 5 - South Euclid Lyndhurst City Schools
- **March 18, 2026** (8:30-3:00)
Session 6 - Cuyahoga Heights Local Schools
- **May 4, 2026** (8:30-3:00)
Year End Presentations & Celebration
ESC of Northeast Ohio

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Network with other emerging leaders in First Ring districts
- Learn about the critical issues facing First Ring districts and share resources on how to solve them
- Enhance your leadership skills and identify opportunities to enact positive change
- Engage in a variety of learning activities including discussions, readings, reflections and district visitations

The First Ring Leadership Academy was developed in partnership with the Cleveland State University Center for Educational Leadership.



Sponsors include:



**MARTHA HOLDEN
JENNINGS FOUNDATION**

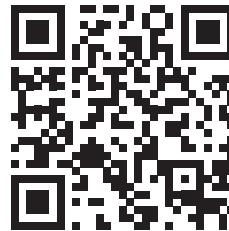


and

Participating school districts

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FRLA?

Scan the QR code or visit the link below for more information.



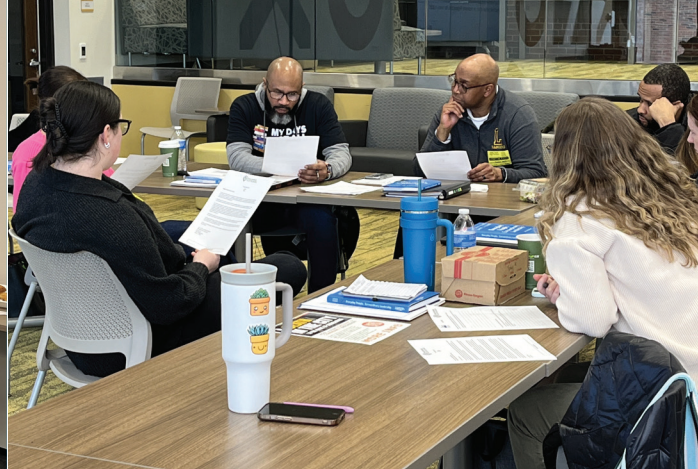
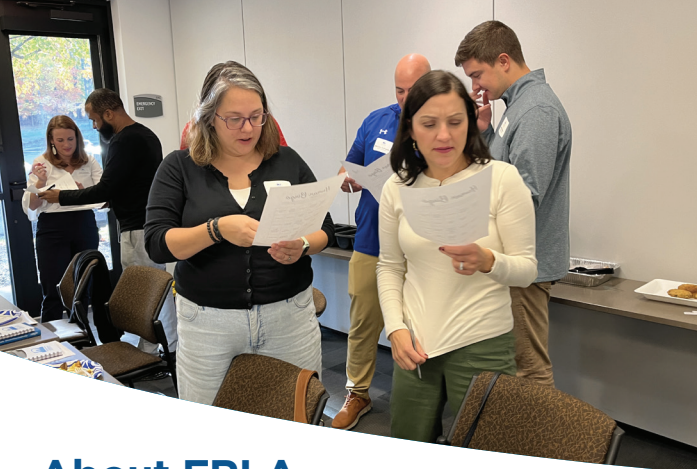
escneo.org/FirstRingLeadershipAcademy.aspx



FIRST RING LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2025-2026

Advancing the
professional knowledge
and expertise of District
Leaders to empower
students & transform
education





About FRLA

The First Ring Leadership Academy (FRLA) provides emerging district leaders with the expanded knowledge base and skills to empower others and transform their districts. Participants will:

- Attend seven sessions throughout the year that will be held at the ESC of Northeast Ohio or select First Ring Districts
- Study the challenges impacting education through a lens of research & current thought leadership
- Explore the challenges facing First Ring districts including equity, poverty, mobility, cultural diversity & opportunity gaps
- Identify critical issues for deeper study, discussion, case analysis & debate
- Network with fellow district leaders from around the First Ring to share best practices and collaborate on improving the educational landscape in Northeast Ohio.

Program Goals

The First Ring Leadership Academy will create job-embedded, experiential learning opportunities for leading change initiatives, differentiating management from leadership (identifying why both are necessary and when) and identifying and managing group dynamics. Participants will sharpen their communication skills and self-understanding and identify opportunities to broaden their own leadership abilities. They will develop an expanded network of colleagues for assistance and support and broadly expand their thinking around how to address a variety of current, real-world case scenarios. Participants will be exposed to international thought leaders in education and will acquire a broader repertoire of research-based and future-focused leadership, intentionally curated to elevate their own skill sets.

Partnering with other District Leaders from around the First Ring

The First Ring Leadership Academy (FRLA) is a year-long professional development and leadership training program for new and emerging leaders in the 16 districts contiguous to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and select members of CMSD. Participants are nominated by their superintendents each summer to become part of the cohort the following school year.

The FRLA provides participants with an expanded knowledge base and skill set foundation to prepare them to assume additional leadership roles within their districts and continue improving district and individual outcomes to serve all levels of students within Cuyahoga County.

Role of FRLA Participant

The Academy guides each participant to identify his or her unique gifts and abilities and helps them maximize those strengths in whatever role they play in their school district. Based on the belief that every person is a leader, who can and *should* empower others to lead as well, this program focuses on identifying opportunities to enact positive change

Participants engage in a variety of learning activities including presentations and discussions, readings and reflections, and district visitations. Sessions are held at the ESC of Northeast Ohio and in select First Ring Districts

Getting Started

Participants are nominated to participate in FRLA by their Superintendents and will be emailed more information from FRSC Director, Dr. Bill Wagner.

escneo.org/FirstRingLeadershipAcademy.aspx

Earn Professional Credit

Participants in the program will receive up to 35 contact hours of professional credit toward licensure renewal requirements and may be able to earn college credit through Cleveland State University by enrolling in the linked EDQ502 course. (Registration and tuition fees will apply).