

# ELEVATE YOUR VOICE

## THE MINNESOTA PRINCIPALS SURVEY

 Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement

CEHD

### Context:

Through funding from the Joyce Foundation and the Minneapolis Foundation, The Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI) at the University of Minnesota is working with a broad stakeholder group to collaboratively develop a statewide survey of principals intended to help to elevate principal voice in Minnesota while informing multiple stakeholder groups including but not limited to policymakers, principal licensure and professional development programs, and the state-wide organizations that support principals like MESPA and MASSP.

### Approach:

The team at CAREI, led by Dr. Katie Pekel, the University of Minnesota's Principal in Residence, is using a collaborative approach that draws not only on research, but also, importantly, the voices of stakeholders within and connected to K-12 education. The researchers at CAREI began with a comprehensive review of literature and survey instruments related to the work of school principals. They have also established both a smaller **Working Group** to closely guide the development of the survey and a broader **Advisory Council** to respond to the work of the **Working Group** and provide broader perspectives and feedback.

### Collaborators:

While there are too many individual members involved in the development of this survey to list, the following organizations have all been invited to collaborate: MASSP, MESPA, MASA, MSBA, Education Minnesota, MDE, MNPTA, AMSD, MREA, MN Business Partnership, MN Service Cooperatives, MnEEP, and SCRED; additionally, a student representative, a parent representative, and educators representing principals, teachers, alternative learning centers, and charter schools.

### Work to Date:

- April 2021 Robust review of the literature on effective principal practice and the tools used to measure their work to determine initial categories for eventual inclusion in the MN Statewide Principal Survey instrument.
- May 2021 **Working Group** meetings to develop potential topic areas and then to map those to initial literature/instrument review to narrow to categories for survey.
- June 2021 **Advisory Council** meeting to respond to broad topics and provide feedback. **Working Group** meeting to synthesize feedback from Advisory group and provide initial ideas for item development/survey questions.

- July 2021 CAREI research team developed draft instrument with review from multiple internal researchers for review by the **Working Group**.
- August 2021 **Advisory Council** meeting to respond to initial draft of pilot survey instrument. Individual talk aloud interviews with a CAREI researcher and 3-5 principals as they take the initial draft of the pilot instrument.

#### **Next Steps:**

- September 2021 Expert review of the pilot instrument by Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development and survey development scholar. Pilot the instrument with 100 principals.
- **November 2021 Launch the survey by sending it directly to every principal, assistant principal, and charter leader in the state of Minnesota.**

#### **Looking Forward:**

A full report of the survey results will be ready for public release in February 2022. From these findings, insight briefs will be developed along with presentations to interested organizations and stakeholders including but not limited to legislators, MDE, and educational organizations. We intend to continue this annual survey to provide a state-wide look at the successes and needs of the principals in Minnesota and to lend their voice in policymaking at the state and local level.