DLP Alumni Show a Higher Percentage of Schools Meeting or Exceeding Student Growth Expectations

Distinguished Leadership in Practice (DLP) is a year-long blended leadership development program for practicing school principals aligned to the NC School Executive Standards and Competencies for effective school leadership. The program, provided by the N.C. Principals & Assistant Principals' Association (NCPAPA), is sponsored through funding from the N.C. Alliance for School Leadership Development (NCASLD).

Throughout the year-long DLP program, principals directly apply improvement science practices to their own schools with their teachers to improve student achievement while they learn how to:

- use data to identify needs and establish priority goals
- align all school improvement efforts to the vision, mission, and goals of the school
- maximize teaching and learning through effective teacher evaluation and coaching for high performance
- create a student-focused culture
- connect with the external community
- lead and manage change

Principals participating in DLP report high levels of satisfaction on all aspects of the program as do their superintendents who supervise them. Additionally, an analysis based on the student growth status of schools showed that schools of the 150 DLP alumni principals who remained in their same schools after their participation in the program showed a higher percentage of schools meeting or exceeding student growth expectations when compared to statewide averages. This analysis was based on the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 DLP cohorts which are the two most recent cohorts for which statewide school performance data are available. Specifically, the analysis showed that nearly 79% of the schools of DLP alumni who stayed in their same school , met or exceeded school growth in 2017-2018 compared to the state average of 72.7% and for the 2018-2019 year, 84% of the schools of DLP alumni who stayed in their same school met or exceeded school growth compared to 73.3% statewide.