

LEAGUE OF DEMOCRATIC SCHOOLS (LODS)



A program of the Institute for Educational Inquiry involving elementary, middle, and high schools in various configurations located in three geographic areas: Western Region, Rocky Mountain/Plains States Region, and Eastern Region

PURPOSE OF THE LEAGUE:

- To promote professional development focused on the growth of students as individuals who are successful members of a democratic society; and
- To help preserve schools which successfully advance the Agenda for Education in a Democracy (AED). Please see the Institute for Educational Inquiry website at <http://www.ieieseattle.org/>.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LEAGUE SCHOOLS (all League schools strive to be exemplars in the following characteristics):

- **Democratic Purpose**—developing in young people the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for successful participation in our nation’s social and political democracy;
- **Student Achievement**—students are successful academically and socially;
- **Ongoing Professional Development**—members of the school community engage in continuous learning;
- **Approaches to Learning**—schools use a variety of approaches to learning, including engaging students with parents and other adults in the community; and
- **Personalization**—schools deliberately personalize the relationships among students, teachers, parents, and administrators by faculty members gathering as a group for dialogue and by other arrangements that facilitate communication among the members of the school community.

BENEFITS FOR SCHOOLS:

- **Capacity building related to the school’s vision, core values, and renewal;**
- **Facilitated sharing of strategies and ideas being used among members of the League for:**
 - **Integrating democracy in the curriculum**
 - **Integrating democratic practices in schools**
 - **Engaging the school faculty as a group for dialogue**
 - **Facilitating communication among the members of the school community**
 - **Engaging, building and/or strengthening engagement between community members and professional school employees, external support agencies;**
- **Professional development provided for teachers and administrators to expand knowledge**

and strengthen connections between classroom practice and the Agenda for Education in a Democracy;

- **Research/Inquiry is conducted and shared on successful practices;**
- **Leadership development that expands knowledge and skills for effective leadership that is consistent with the Agenda for Education in a Democracy;**
- **Collaboration in problem solving, professional development activities, research, conference presentations, and grant getting to support initiatives;**
- **Materials and expert help are provided to assist members of the school community with the work, as well as facilitation of mutual assistance among members of the League;**
- **Local support is strengthened through communication and collaboration;**
- **Site visitations and networking with the national networks that are associated with the Institute for Educational Inquiry;**
- **Provides a forum for support and sustainability; and**
- **Recognition nationally.**

BENEFITS FOR COLLEGES:

- **Sites that are practicing democracy provide a place for teachers, teacher candidates, school leaders, administrators, and community members to see it and work with it;**
- **Focused work with schools, teachers, administrators, and the school community;**
- **Sharing curriculum development ideas across colleges/universities (local and national);**
- **Development of supportive relationships/partnerships between and among area schools, institutions of higher education, business, other agencies, and other institutions of higher education;**
- **Collaboration for grant proposals, research questions;**
- **Conducting and sharing research focused on successful practices among the League;**
- **Opportunity for simultaneous renewal and participation in national networks that are associated with the Institute for Educational Inquiry;**
- **Ongoing professional development; and**
- **Recognition nationally.**