

SLA DESIGN SNAPSHOT

A 30–45-minute design exercise for district leadership teams

This tool helps district teams quickly assess the quality of their thinking about a Summer Leadership Academy (SLA/PLA). If some questions feel difficult to answer, that is a useful signal, not a problem.

1. Connect to a Small Number of District Priorities

In one sentence, clearly describe the purpose of convening principals this summer.

What one or two district priorities, strategic plan goals, or data signals must shape the SLA agenda?

What are the top three topics that genuinely require bringing all principals together at the same time?

a.

b.

c.

2. Plan the Follow-Through

Who is accountable for the success of the SLA, and how will success be measured by September?

What are the specific actions principal supervisors will take between SLA and winter break to reinforce expectations, learning, and next steps?

3. Differentiate for Experience and Context

What differentiation (novice vs. experienced principals, school context, grade span) would most improve the value of the SLA?

Where will differentiation show up explicitly in the agenda (sessions, strands, work time, facilitation)?



4. Anchor in Real Principal Work

What real problems of practice do principals need time to work on during the SLA?

What artifacts, plans, or decisions should principals leave with in hand?

5. Clarify Purpose and Theme Early

What is the unifying theme or through-line for the SLA, and how will it be reinforced across sessions?

How will leaders communicate why these priorities matter now?

6. Design With Principals, Not For Them

How will principal input be collected and meaningfully used in design (e.g., surveys, listening sessions, co-design teams)?

What roles will principals play in presenting, facilitating, or leading portions of the SLA?

7. Balance Celebration with Accountability

Where will the SLA intentionally celebrate progress, leadership, and effort?

Where will it reinforce expectations, responsibility, and non-negotiables for the year ahead?

How Districts Often Use This Tool with EduSolve

Districts frequently use this snapshot as a starting point, then engage EduSolve to:

- Gather principal input through surveys or listening sessions
- Facilitate co-design sessions with supervisors and principals
- Design differentiated strands for novice and veteran leaders
- Support follow-through through coaching, planning, and accountability tools

If your answers surfaced uncertainty or misalignment, that is often the right moment to bring in design support.