



MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION



Announcing Our Sixth Cohort of:

The Soul of Leadership: Courage, Presence, and Integrity

*A yearlong personal & leadership
renewal program for PreK-12 school leaders*

WHY

We lead who we are. As school leaders, we cultivate the culture in our schools. This culture reflects who we are and what we do. Research clearly shows that school leaders have a strong impact on student achievement, school climate and equity work. At the same time, leaders are experiencing substantial stress that can compromise their personal well-being and leadership. The challenges of leading today underscore the need for school leaders who can handle stress, build trust, and develop caring and culturally responsive schools.

WHAT

We invite you to deepen your own development as a leader. The *Soul of Leadership* develops your capacity for self-awareness, listening, and reflection. We offer school leaders the time, space, and facilitation to do what Parker Palmer calls “the work before the work.” Principals are invited to reflect on their lives and work through contemplative practices drawn from the Center for Courage & Renewal and the fields of mindfulness, social-emotional learning, neuroscience, poetry, and the arts.

During in-person retreats and virtual small group sessions, participants experience the value of building relational trust in a group, as well as practices that help leaders strengthen the well-being of their adult and student school communities. Participants receive a 200-page guidebook of protocols that they can bring back to school to facilitate team-building and reflection, and build muscle for challenging conversations that arise when educators commit to continual innovating for student success.

IMPACT

Over the past five years, MSAA, with ongoing grant support from the Angell Foundation, has provided *Soul of Leadership* to over 150 school leaders from a diverse cross-section of districts across Massachusetts. Ongoing program evaluation has found that leaders who participate in *Soul of Leadership* develop:

- A stronger sense of purpose and integrity and the courage to live and lead authentically
- Increased ability to be fully present and listen in ways that affirm and heal
- Enhanced capacity to build the relational trust that helps schools pursue their aspirations and goals and promote an equitable, anti-racist school community
- Mindfulness and compassion practices essential to well-being
- Increased awareness of how to balance school leadership work and personal life in a way that is sustainable

Read more about *Soul of Leadership* in this [Education Week article](#).

LEADERSHIP MATTERS



MSAA | 33 Forge Pkwy | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997

Format & Schedule for Cohort 6	
3 Full Day In-Person Retreats	Thursdays 8:30-3:30 August 17 November 2 April 25
4 Virtual Small Group Sessions (75 minutes) <i>Provide the ongoing support of a smaller group and an opportunity to check in and keep the momentum of your experience moving forward.</i>	Dates TBD You will have a choice of Days (T, W, Th) & Times (7:30 am or 3:30) September December February March
Facilitators (Full Bios here) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Francisco, Principal - Berkley Community School • Brenda Maurao, Principal -Burbank School, Belmont • Rick Rogers, Soul of Leadership Program Coordinator • Rick Swanson, Principal – Hingham High School 	

FEE: \$795 Members / \$995 Non-Members

23 PDPs

To Register and Apply:

1. Register [here](#) by August 4, 2023. Enrollment is limited to 30. For registration questions, contact Vickie Ellison at vellison@msaa.net.
2. Please email to rickrogers409@gmail.com a brief statement describing why you are interested in participating in this program at this time and your hopes for participation.

Testimonials

“If it is true that everything rises and falls on leadership, then the leader must be healthy and whole from the inside out. The Soul of Leadership program provides the school leader with a thoughtful, nourishing approach to the healing of mind, body and soul. Without attention to this dimension, successful school and personal transformation cannot be sustained.

Ron Walker, Founder
Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color

“Participation in the Soul of Leadership program has been a significant source of strength and empowerment for me...I feel healthier, more grounded, more balanced and more joyful. As a result, I am a more effective leader, better able to meet the needs of those (students and teachers alike) who rely on me to make a positive difference in their lives.”

High School Principal

“The supportive environment you created as part of Soul of Leadership encourages risk-taking, reflection, and an opportunity to connect with other building leaders, allowing me to think about where I belong and what my key values are. I’ve brought many aspects of the program into my work with my community of educators, but especially the mindset and belief that we do this tough work of being an educator best when we do it together with others.”

Middle Level Principal

“The most valuable thing for me about the sessions for Soul of Leadership is that you somehow manage to slow down time. In our work in schools, things happen fast, fast, fast and people want decisions fast, fast, fast...In our sessions there are so many ways that you model and teach slowing down. I’m working to use those techniques in my work life so that I can slow down and improve my decision making.”

Elementary Principal