



Over the last year, I've had the opportunity to participate in the GAEL Aspiring Principals Program alongside other outstanding leaders from around Georgia. This program has served as an invaluable resource to connect with other educators and leaders to discuss everyday topics we face in our current positions. Now, more than ever, it is imperative for leaders to collaborate and build a strong community among each other to offer insight and resources within the educational field. I firmly believe in the power of education and I feel that this program has equipped me with evidence-based resources, real-life strategies, and knowledgeable colleagues that will assist me in my future endeavors.

**William Basby**, Assistant Principal  
Houston County School System



I am sincerely honored to have participated in the GAEL Aspiring Principals Program. It has supported me in developing a leadership growth plan and, to a greater degree, preparing me for principalship's future role. The Clifton Strengths Assessment was an afforded opportunity to understand my strengths and leadership traits more thoroughly. I used this assessment in conjunction with successful leader mentors' practices, the leadership skills gained through professional development, and the relationships formed with colleagues within the cohort to guide my leadership. I highly recommend this program to aspiring leaders desiring to advance in leadership!

**Katrina W. Smith**, Assistant Principal  
Buchanan Primary, Haralson County Schools



Being a part of the GAEL Aspiring Principals Program helped prepare me for the Principal role I am in now. I had the opportunity to network with other leaders in Georgia and learn from leaders at the state level. The sessions I attended helped me understand the responsibilities of a principal and gave me the insight needed to lead my school. We do better when we learn from each other, and GAEL provides this opportunity through this program.

**Marla Turpin**, Principal  
Roopville Elementary School



Being a part of the GAEL Aspiring Principals Program has allowed me to obtain a wealth of knowledge I would not have otherwise been afforded. Our system chose to send classroom teachers who have been identified as future possible leaders. Although I was attending the program as a classroom teacher, the information I learned was invaluable. Leadership skills can be applied anywhere - my classroom or in my life experiences. When the opportunity presents itself, I now have a variety of resources at my disposal. The GAEL Aspiring Principals Program is a must for anyone who would one day like to be in a leadership position. I believe I am now better equipped at understanding the characteristics, obligations, and overall responsibilities of a leader.

**Christie Melton**, Ed.S. 8th Grade ELA  
Towns County Middle School

## Goals

- Develop an awareness of the issues and problems participants may encounter on the job and the array of resources and processes available to address them
- Enhance participants' organizational and leadership skills
- Provide information concerning the effective operation of schools within established legal and ethical principles
- Provide opportunities for discussion with successful principals concerning current trends and issues and their implications for educational improvement
- Develop a cadre of school leaders who seek new and innovative approaches to the challenges of educating Georgia's youth
- Assist participants in the development of a network of professional contacts and resources
- Increase pride, prestige, trust and confidence in public education and the educational leaders in the public schools in Georgia

## Rationale

The responsibilities of public school leaders are very complex – building manager, human resource administrator, change agent, student disciplinarian, cheerleader, instructional leader, school improvement specialist, and in some cases, surrogate parent.

Fulfilling these roles in a positive and successful manner is challenging for many experienced building level leaders. Inexperienced leaders need help 'staying focused on the big picture' and need to be provided opportunities for collaborative and reflective learning.

*Limited seats are available for this program, so we recommend applying ASAP. We will invoice you in fall.*



GAESP GAMSP GASSP

850 College Station Road  
Room 122, River's Crossing Building  
Athens, Georgia 30604  
Phone: 706-250-4805



# Aspiring Principals Program

GAESP GAMSP GASSP

**Leadership Matters!**

*developing & supporting  
educational leaders*

# Gael Aspiring Principals Program 2021-2022

## Registration Form

Please Type or Print Legibly

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

System: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (Required): \_\_\_\_\_

### Supervisor's Endorsement of Participation

I endorse the above individual's participation in this program and attendance at the program sessions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Registration Information

#### Registration Fee – Check One

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$825 Includes Complimentary Membership in GAEL and  
GAESP, GAMSP, or GASSP through June 30, 2022
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$600 Already a Member of GAEL and GAESP, GAMSP, or  
GASSP

**On Line:** Go to the GAEL web site at [www.gael.org/resources/aspiring-principals-program](http://www.gael.org/resources/aspiring-principals-program)  
click on 'GAEL Aspiring Principals Support Program'

**US Mail:** Send Registration Form and a check payable to GAEL to:  
GAEL Aspiring Principals Support Program,  
PO Box 6445, Athens, GA 30604  
Please do not send credit card information via the US mail.

**Session I program and location information will be forwarded to  
you upon the receipt of your completed Registration and Payment.**

**Hal Beaver**, Executive Director  
Georgia Association of Elementary School Principals  
(706) 250-4805

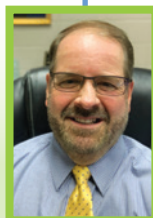
**Don Splinter**, GAEL  
(404) 307-9704

**Robert "Buddy" Costley**, GAEL Executive Director  
(706) 205-4803



Professional learning and growth is a critical component of being an effective educator. In more recent years, we have all become more aware of the important role collaboration plays in becoming a better leader. The GAEL Aspiring Principals program provides participants with the opportunity to not only learn and grow professionally but to also build a network of colleagues to collaborate with in the future. This program is an essential part of preparing the next generation of principals. I am confident that the participants from the Houston County School District are better administrators because of this program.

**Mark A. Scott, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
Houston County Board of Education



I cannot praise the GAEL Aspiring Principals Program enough. The assistant principals, new principals, and future leaders we send through the program laud not only the great content of the sessions but also the relationships and bonds they form with the colleagues in their cohort.

**Steve J. Smith, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent  
Bleckley County Schools

### Program Dates

- **September 23, 2021 (one day)**  
Perry, Georgia
- **October 24, 2021 (one day)**  
GAESP/GAMSP/GASSP Fall Conference  
Lake Lanier Island
- **December 2, 2021 (one day)**  
Athens, Georgia
- **January 23, 2022**  
GAEL Winter Conference  
Athens, Georgia
- **February 24, 2022 (one day)**  
Perry, Georgia
- **March 24, 2022 (one day)**  
Perry, Georgia
- **July 2022**  
GAEL Summer Conference (with membership purchase)

### Strands for Professional Learning

**STRENGTHS-BASED LEADERSHIP:** Leaders selected for the 2021-2022 cohort will engage with tools like the research-based "Clifton Strengths Assessment 2.0" so that our leaders can assess themselves of their individual strengths and leadership personality traits... and how to account for the varying strengths/traits of their staff and peers in building and leading effective teams.

**ENGAGING WITH SUCCESSFUL LEADER MENTORS:** Leaders will also have multiple opportunities to engage with panels of sitting GA school superintendents and National Distinguished Principals to learn more about the criteria they use in hiring a principal and best practices for leadership.

**FOUNDATIONAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS OF THE 2020s PRINCIPAL:** Leaders will engage with quality Professional Development from established leaders in the field in the micro-skills of the contemporary principal: Instructional Leadership, Human Resources, Finance and Budget, Ethics, IDEA/504 Compliance, Parent and Student Communication and Involvement, Policy and Legislative Considerations, and School Safety.

**EVOLVING CHALLENGES FOR THE 2020s PRINCIPAL:** This strand recognizes that leaders must be prepared for challenges that are just now evolving or arising... or that haven't manifested yet! Thus, we will discuss the concept of capacity, building it for one's self and building it for those you lead.