



The 9-day THRIVE Leadership Academy is designed for building leaders (counselors, educators and administrators) to obtain the skills necessary to lead a building-level team that will meet the behavioral and mental health needs of all students in K-12 learning environments through a multi-tiered system of supports focused on positive behavior supports and data based decision making. Successful completion of the academy will result in an endorsement added to the participant's teaching license and a \$2500 stipend. Space is limited, so you must submit your application by 4:30 PM on Friday September 8, 2023. Accepted applicants will be notified by Friday, September 15, 2023, with next steps and additional details.

Cohort 4 will meet at **The Ferndale 4-H Center in Little Rock**. Cohort 5 will meet at **Winrock Conference Center in Morrilton**. Lodging and meals will be provided. Districts will be responsible for the cost of travel to and from the locations. **Participants are required to attend all days outlined below for the cohort they are accepted into.**

Cohort 4 Dates:

Block 1 - Days 1-3: October 2-4, 2023

Block 2 - Days 4-6: November 28-30, 2023

Block 3 - Days 7-9: February 21-23, 2024

Cohort 5 Dates:

Block 1 - Days 1-3: January 29-31, 2024

Block 2 - Days 4-6: March 11-13, 2024

Block 3 - Days 7-9: June 24-26, 2024

Applications must be submitted by the District and contain the information of all building leaders they would like considered for the academy. **It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that districts send a team of participants, ideally at least 2 from each building that applies.** Due to limited space, applicants will be asked to prioritize the cohort for which they would like each participant to be considered. Follow-up support will be provided based on the application group. Please complete and submit by September 8, 2023.

Complete AR THRIVE Leader Academy District Application here: [THRIVE Application](#)

Participants will be paid a \$2500 stipend and will be eligible for an endorsement to be added to their current teaching license upon successful completion of the academy. Successful completion of the academy includes:

1. Attending and participating in all days of training;
2. Completing all required assignments;
3. Demonstrating progress toward implementation of required plan;
4. Completing final project and presentation in fall 2023.

Purpose and Design

The AR THRIVE Leader Academy is for those individuals who are currently serving as an administrator, dean of students or interventionist in an Arkansas public school and whose job duties require them to directly manage behavioral expectations for students in the K-12 setting. The academy will prepare participants to support behavior and mental health in their schools both reactively and proactively and strengthen current educational structures to systematically teach academic and social behaviors. Participants will learn a variety of strategies used for prevention, de-escalation and positive supports. Some topics will include:

- Recognizing internal and external biases about behavior;
- Recognizing signs of trauma/distress that may be having an affect on the child's behavior;
- Establishing a Multi-Tiered System of Support to address the needs of ALL students;
- Correcting undesirable behaviors by reinforcing desirable behaviors;
- Understanding the behavioral and mental health supports located in their region;
- Learning how to coordinate an inclusive building behavioral team to glean the fullest picture of a child's resources and needs;
- Utilizing a Behavioral Support Plan;
- Learning about non-punitive classroom management strategies and how to establish a system that addresses behavior from a positive lens;
- Coaching teachers in the strategies learned;
- Establishing essential standards and curriculum for academic and social behaviors;
- Recognizing best practice school based mental health programming.

The AR THRIVE Academy will provide 9 days of face-to-face professional learning with assignments to be completed between the sessions.

Expenses

Lodging and meals will be covered by the Arkansas Department of Education through the use of ARP ESSER Funds. Districts are responsible for travel to and from the meeting location.