

# NASSP & LPI Research Partnership

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is this project?

The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and the Learning Policy Institute (LPI) are collaborating on an intensive new research project to identify the causes and impact of principal turnover nationwide. The purpose is to increase awareness of this serious problem and how it affects student outcomes, school culture and climate, teacher retention, and school districts' budgets. The project will also identify and share evidence-based responses to principal turnover. Based on the research, to be conducted over the coming year, LPI and NASSP will develop recommendations for policymakers at all levels of government for policies that will help states, districts, and schools recruit and retain high-quality school leaders.

### Who are the partners?

NASSP and LPI are the primary partners. NASSP is working with LPI to create the research agenda and commission the research, which LPI will conduct with assistance from WestEd.

### What are their roles?

LPI and NASSP are working in partnership to determine the scope of the research and how to disseminate it. LPI is conducting the research, with assistance from WestEd, and is responsible for writing and producing the briefs and reports. In 2019, LPI and WestEd will produce three briefs and a report.

### How was the Learning Policy Institute selected to conduct the research?

Using a competitive proposal process, NASSP selected LPI from a pool of the nation's leading research institutes to manage the project. LPI's groundbreaking research on teacher shortages has informed national and state policies to improve teacher recruitment and retention. LPI has also conducted research on effective principal preparation and professional development.

## What will be done with the studies?

The studies will be published as briefs and reports on the NASSP Policy & Advocacy Center and LPI websites and will be shared with NASSP's membership, members of other organizations, news media, and policymakers and their staffs. The studies are intended to inform and shape policy related to developing, recruiting, and retaining high-quality principals in our nation's schools.

## What's the timeline for releasing the research findings?

The first brief will be released March 19 at NASSP's Advocacy Conference, the second in July at NASSP's National Principals' Conference, and the third in the Fall of 2019. The report will be released late in the year.

## Is principal turnover really a big problem?

According to [data released by the U.S. Department of Education in July of 2018](#), almost 1 in 5 principals leave their schools each year. Schools in lower income communities feel the greatest impact, with a principal retention rate of 79%, compared with 85% in higher income communities. This discontinuity in leadership often impedes school success by disrupting growth plans before they come to fruition and has a negative effect on teacher satisfaction and student achievement.

## For more information on the NASSP/LPI Research Partnership, contact:

**Amanda Karhuse**  
Director of Advocacy  
[karhusea@nassp.org](mailto:karhusea@nassp.org)

or

**Stephanie Levin**  
Research Manager  
[slevin@learningpolicyinstitute.org](mailto:slevin@learningpolicyinstitute.org)