Delaware has 217 principals or heads of school. This brief provides a snapshot of the composition of Delaware’s current group of school leaders.

Demographics

- 55% of Delaware’s current principals are female and 45% are male.
- 74% are white, 24% are black, and 2% are Latino/Hispanic.
- Of the white principals, 53% are female and 47% are male. Of the black principals, 60% are female and 40% are male. (Figure 1)
- 50% of principals are between the ages of 38 and 52 and the average principal is 45 years old.
- 50% of principals have between 12 and 24 years of education experience and the average years of total experience is 18 years.
- Of the 157 principals with updated education records in DEEDS, 19% have a doctorate degree and 81% have a master’s degree as their highest degree.
  - Of these 157 principals, 8% received their highest degree from Delaware State University, 15% from University of Delaware, 4% from Salisbury State University and 47% from Wilmington University.

Position Type

- 72% of our elementary school principals are female and 72% of our high school principals are male.
- 43% of principals in the bottom quartile of total years of education experience are leading schools in the top two quartiles of students receiving Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL). 64% of principals in the 2nd quartile of experience are leading schools as compared to 49% and 40% in the 3rd and 4th quartiles of education experience, respectively.
- 66% of black principals are working in schools in the top two quartiles of share of students receiving free and reduced price lunch as compared to 43% of white principals. (Figure 2)
- The percent of minority students in the schools led by white principals is 45% on average as compared to 65% for black principals.

Retention and Transfer

- 74% of principals were in their current position in their current school during the previous school year. Another 8% were in the same school but in different positions in the previous school year. (Figure 3)
- Overall, 82% of principals remained in the same school from school year 11-12 to school year 12-13 and 12% moved to another school within the same district. 2% moved to a new district and 4% were not working in the DE public school system in the previous school year.
- 31% of DE’s current principals have switched schools at least once since the 2009-2010 school year and 59% have been in the same school since 2009-2010. The other 10% of principals were not principals in the Delaware public education system in 2009-2010.
- Of the 34 DE principals working in a new school in 2012-2013, 65% are in schools in the lowest two quartiles of student achievement (using DCAS math scores).
- 43 or (20%) of Delaware’s current principals were not working as principals during the previous school year.
  - 7% of the principals not in a principal role last year were working in district positions, another 74% were working in assistant principal roles, and 19% were not working in the Delaware public education system.

Source: DDOE human resources, licensure and certification data, & student demographic & achievement data
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