

2025-2026 CCRESA Lead & Learn Sessions



Date/Time & Location:	Session Title and Description:
<p>Tuesday, September 16, 2025 9 am - noon NC School Boards Association Bldg. 7208 Falls of Neuse Road Raleigh, NC</p>	<p>Session 1: Managing Time: Setting Priorities & Expectations (Drs. Ross Renfrow & Sonja Parks) <i>Standards III, IV</i> As a new principal, how do you decide what matters most—and how do you clearly communicate those priorities and expectations to your staff, students, and families? This session will guide beginning school leaders through a thoughtful process of aligning daily actions with the school’s mission, vision, and shared values—<i>not just data points</i>.</p>
<p>Wednesday, October 22, 2025 9 am - noon NC School Boards Association Bldg. 7208 Falls of Neuse Road Raleigh, NC</p>	<p>Session 2: Crisis Response in Schools: Building Capacity, Confidence, and Care (Drs. Stephanie Ellis, Jackie Ellis, & Sonja Parks) <i>Standards II, IV, V</i> Responding effectively to a school-based mental health crisis requires more than just a plan—it calls for well-trained professionals, compassionate leadership, and systems designed for both immediate support and long-term recovery. This session prepares school-based mental health professionals, administrators, and crisis response teams with the knowledge and tools to respond to traumatic events in a timely, coordinated, and trauma-informed manner.</p>
<p>Wednesday, November 19, 2025 9 am - noon NC School Boards Association Bldg. 7208 Falls of Neuse Road Raleigh, NC</p>	<p>Session 3 Purposeful Practice: Building Culture, Empowering People, Optimizing Systems (Drs. Jill Reinhardt & Sonja Parks) <i>Standards I, II, III</i> A dynamic session focused on strengthening school leadership through purposeful practice. Explore how to build a thriving culture, empower your team, and optimize systems for lasting impact. This hands-on experience blends personal reflection, collaboration, and practical tools to support effective leadership and continuous improvement.</p>
<p>Tuesday, December 9, 2025 9 am - noon NC School Boards Association Bldg. 7208 Falls of Neuse Road Raleigh, NC</p>	<p>Session 4: AI for Administrators: Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Streamline School Leadership (Brian Whitsen’s DTL Team from NCDPI & Dr. Sonja Parks) <i>Standards II, IV, V</i> Join us for an interactive professional learning session designed for principals and assistant principals, whether you’re just beginning or already exploring the use of Generative AI. This session will equip you with the tools, strategies, and confidence to integrate AI into your daily leadership practices.</p>
<p>Tuesday, January 27, 2026 9 am - noon NC School Boards Association Bldg. 7208 Falls of Neuse Road Raleigh, NC</p>	<p>Session 5: School Budgets and Schedules (Drs. Jan King & Sonja Parks) <i>Standards I, IV, V, VI, VII</i> Managerial leadership is a critical area for novice principals, and an understanding of the impact of school budgets and scheduling on instructional effectiveness is vital. This session provides a foundational overview of school budgeting processes, the principal’s responsibilities as a fiscal leader, and the importance of building a school schedule that works. Participants will review key concepts, examine relevant Board policies, and explore best practices for resource allocation that aligns with school, district, and state priorities.</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 25, 2026 9 am - noon *LOCATION CHANGE: Lufkin Road Middle School 1002 Lufkin Road Apex, NC 27539</p>	<p>Session 6: Principals as Instructional Leaders (Dr. Sonja Parks) <i>Standards I, II</i> Hosted by Lead & Learn alumna Principal Elizabeth Hannah at Lufkin Road Middle School in Wake County, this session will critically examine research-based practices for monitoring instruction and providing precise, formative feedback to teachers. Participants will engage in a structured instructional walk-through followed by a facilitated debrief, designed to deepen their understanding of effective instructional leadership and support the transfer of these practices into their own school.</p>
<p>Tuesday, March 17, 2026 9 am - noon NC School Boards Association Bldg. 7208 Falls of Neuse Road Raleigh, NC</p>	<p>Session 7: Best Practices in Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (Drs. Stephanie Ellis & Sonja Parks) <i>Standards I, II, III</i> What does it mean to be an effective principal? This session engages participants in a reflective leadership exercise to determine strengths and areas of growth around management of people, data and processes. With the goal of building and sustaining intentional, proven leadership practices, this session ends with scenarios to strengthen decision making.</p>
<p>Wednesday, April 22, 2026 9 am - noon NC School Boards Association Bldg. 7208 Falls of Neuse Road Raleigh, NC</p>	<p>Session 8: Successful Models (Dr. Sonja Parks & Invited Principals) <i>All Standards</i> This session offers a differentiated experience by school level, providing participants with the opportunity to engage in in-depth, roundtable discussions with experienced and accomplished school leaders. Topics will span key aspects of school leadership, including establishing high expectations for student conduct, effective instructional practices, Advanced Teaching Roles, and strategic scheduling.</p>