

5 STEPS TO BECOMING A PRINCIPAL



OBTAIN A DEGREE

Obtain a bachelor's degree in education or related field. Most future principals start with a degree in education, but you can also pursue degrees in subjects you want to teach, such as math or English.

GAIN EXPERIENCE

Principals may start their careers as teachers and gain valuable experience managing classrooms, designing lesson plans and working directly with students and other educators.



PURSUE A MASTER'S DEGREE

If you're looking to step into school administration, you typically need a master's degree. A Master of Education (M.Ed.) can help you build skills you'll need to lead.

COMPLETE REQUIRED LICENSURE

To pursue a job as a principal, you'll need a valid teaching license and certification. Some states also expect principals to keep their licenses up to date throughout their careers.



CONTINUE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Education is ever-changing and continuing professional development can help you stay on top of these changes. Consider enrolling in leadership programs to learn fresh strategies to improve your school.