

Developing Stronger School Principals

UConn's University Principal Preparation Initiative

UConn is **1 of 7** universities selected by the **Wallace Foundation** to take part in a **\$47 million** national initiative to improve principal preparation programs nationwide.

The University Principal Preparation Initiative (UPPI) builds on 15 years of Wallace-supported research about what makes for effective principals and their preservice training at universities. The initiative seeks to explore how university principal preparation programs can improve training so it reflects the evidence on how best to prepare effective principals, and then to share these insights to benefit the broader field.

UPPI is intended to contribute to the development of a new national approach to preparing effective principals, focusing on:

Developing and implementing high-quality courses of study with practical, on-the-job experiences

Putting in place strong university-district partnerships

Developing state policies about program accreditation, principal licensure or certification, and other matters to promote more effective training statewide

Why Now?

According to a Wallace-commissioned study, **80% of district superintendents** are dissatisfied with the quality of principal preparation programs, and many universities also believe their programs have room for improvement.

The initiative **aims to address a longstanding concern** that many university programs have not kept pace with the growing demands of principalship.





“We’re thrilled to be in such great company as a part of this nationwide effort and are ready to work together in taking these types of programs to a new level.”

— **Richard Gonzales**,
assistant professor-in-residence and director
of the Neag School’s Educational Leadership
Preparation Programs

How Does UConn’s Neag School Fit In?



UConn will get guidance on **redesigning its UConn**

Administrator Preparation Program, which seeks to prepare high-quality aspiring school administrators through the University’s Neag School of Education.



UConn’s Neag School is **partnering with Hartford, Meriden, and New Haven Public Schools** to ensure that its principal training is revamped with local school needs in mind and to develop research-based training elements together.



Through the Wallace Foundation, the Neag School — along **with district partners and the Connecticut State Department of Education** — will receive in the first year **\$1.25 million** to take on this work, with **\$5.45 million** projected in total over the life of the project.

What’s the Goal?

To capture lessons from the participating universities and their partners, to be shared with policymakers and practitioners across the country.

To examine state policy and to see whether it can be strengthened to encourage higher-quality training statewide.

To develop models over the next 4 years for improving university principal preparation programs.