

Rising Leaders: 10 standout assistant principals and district leaders you should know in 2023-24

These exceptional administrators make the grade on student engagement, social-emotional support, career education and more.

Published August 24, 2023 • By Roger Riddell



Illustration: Ivan Haidutski for Industry Dive

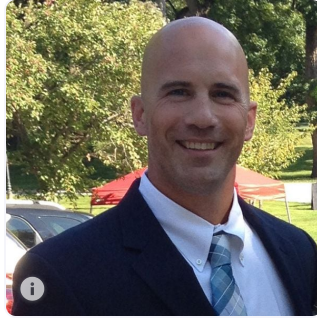
Earlier this year, K-12 Dive asked readers to tell us about the assistant principals and district leaders going above and beyond in their schools. In poring over dozens of nominations, we heard about the exemplary support, innovative visions, and efforts to promote growth driving K-12 school systems nationwide. We're excited to highlight the careers of 10 of those exceptional leaders.

From helping their schools land grants for calm rooms that support students' social-emotional well-being to spearheading initiatives around inclusivity, career and technical education, and new technologies, the leaders spotlighted here stand out among their peers as some of the best and brightest in the nation's K-12 school systems.

FILTER BY:

Keep reading ▾

Assistant Principals



Matt Haines

Assistant Principal at Souderton Area High School in Souderton, Pennsylvania

Matt Haines never shies away from new ideas or getting his hands dirty in the trenches, says Susan Van Saun, district staff developer for Pennsylvania’s Souderton Area School District. “Matt is at the forefront of everything related to students and innovation here at Souderton Area High School.”

Haines, who has been an administrator for 20 years, is particularly instrumental in the 2,000-student high school’s Link Crew, a high school transition program that trains juniors and seniors to serve as mentors to freshmen. In addition to helping incoming students feel comfortable during their first year of high school, Link Crew leaders’ responsibilities include helping to guide freshmen through orientation and social and academic events during the school year.

Additionally, Van Saun says Haines played a key role in the implementation of 1:1 computing and restorative practices, as well as a library transformation. “His leadership makes us one of the top high schools in our area.”