



LIGHT Leadership Residency Illuminating innovation.

LIGHT Leadership Residency Application

The LIGHT Leadership program actively seeks candidates with diverse backgrounds and perspectives, and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. All candidates must hold a Pennsylvania instructional or counseling certification, demonstrate a positive impact on student achievement and engagement, obtain the approval and partnership of their school leader, and be employed in good standing in a school-based role for the coming school year with flexible release time of at least 10 hours weekly to participate.

NOTE: The LIGHT Leadership Program accepts a maximum of 12 applicants. Submission of an application for the LIGHT Leadership Program is not a guarantee of acceptance.

Name:

PPID:

Address:

Email:

Certification

(LIST ALL AREAS IN WHICH YOU HOLD VALID PENNSYLVANIA AND/OR OUT-OF-STATE TEACHING CERTIFICATES.

NOTE: APPLICANTS HOLDING A CERTIFICATE FROM ANOTHER STATE MUST FIRST OBTAIN A PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATE IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE LIGHT LEADERSHIP RESIDENCY.)

Area of Certification	Issuing State	Date Issued

Educational Background

	School/Institution and Location	Major/Minor	Diplomas, Degrees, or Credits Earned	Grade Point Average (GPA)
High School				
College/University				
College/University				
Graduate Study				
Graduate Study				

Professional References (our team will reach out to these designated individuals directly)

	Name	Organization/ Address	Position	Contact Info (phone and email)
Supervisor				
Peer				
Someone you have Coached, Lead, or Managed				

Student Impact Story: Tell a compelling story about how your practice as an educator has positively impacted student achievement and engagement. This can either take the format of a one page document (words and images), or a multimedia video presentation of up to two minutes in length. Regardless of the primary format, please also include up to three pages of charts and/or graphs that depict and frame the student performance data for growth and achievement relevant to your story, and how that data compares to state and local data.

Micro Essay: Describe in 150 words or fewer why you are uniquely suited to lead a school in Philadelphia.

Memorandum of Understanding: Please secure, sign, and send the Memorandum of Understanding that indicates your school’s ability to sustainably support your participation in the LIGHT Leadership Residency program.

Please submit this signed application along with the following attachments to LIGHTResidency@stringtheoryschools.org:

- Copies of all listed educational certifications
- Copies of all post-secondary transcripts
- Current resume or CV with relevant experience

- Two written letters of recommendation from other people who know you and your work and impact in schools.
- Signed and dated Memorandum of Understanding
- Student Impact Story
- Micro Essay
- PA State Police Criminal Background Check (Act 34)
- Federal Criminal History Record (Act 114)
- PA Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151)

By signing below, I acknowledge that:

- The LIGHT Leadership Residency is a highly-selective post-baccalaureate program approved by PDE that requires both a two-year residency commitment (including compulsory participation in the LIGHT Leadership Summer Institute in late June/early July) and documented demonstration of leadership and fieldwork competencies to earn initial PK-12 Principal Certification.
- Applicants must currently hold a PA teaching or counseling certificate in good standing and have at least three years of full-time experience in a school.
- No application is complete without a signed Memorandum of Understanding.
- Eligible applicants will either be invited to participate in a Selection Day Event for Light Leadership Cohort 2025, or given feedback on their submissions to support re-application for a future cohort.
- Full tuition for the program is \$10,000 over two years. String Theory Schools does not provide financial aid, though you are free to pursue independent loans through your own financial institution to assist with tuition expenses.*
- Residents are responsible for all certification costs through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- Residents are responsible for any costs associated with anchor texts or other course materials. (Some texts are available at local libraries and/or electronically for no or low cost.)

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

**Employees of schools in String Theory Schools' network receive discounted tuition benefits. Please contact the Program Director for more information.*