

Template for Exit Essay Responses

Shippensburg University Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Educational Leadership Program Letter of Eligibility

Candidate Name:

Date Submitted:

Adviser:

Exit Essay/Interview

Notes:

1. Candidates are expected to use APA Style when referencing authoritative sources as part of each response as appropriate. The template was created in Microsoft Word so that it can be completed, edited and submitted to the department secretary online and distributed to committee members prior to the Exit Interview.
2. There are seven areas that require a response. Each response is to be no more than two pages including any notations.
3. Candidates are cautioned to thoroughly review the rubric and scoring guide which is attached as a separate pdf file prior to drafting responses.
4. The Exit Interview will be an opportunity for you to provide an oral defense of your responses.

Overview

*The state of Pennsylvania does not require a licensure exam for the Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility. The District Leadership Written Essay has been developed as part of a series of culminating activities to assess a candidate's professional/content competency before the University recommends the awarding of the Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility.

1. Description of Assessment:

The District Level Exit Essay is intended to assess the competence of candidates who will be pursuing careers in district level leadership upon completion of the program.

Candidates are required to create a written essay which responds to a series of Program Essential Questions which evolve from required coursework, projects and experiences.

The essay is structured so that candidate responses focus on district leadership level professional and content knowledge which is necessary to be a successful leader. The candidate is required to organize his/her essay around a series of questions developed by Educational leadership Faculty.

The program director will form an Exit Essay Committee and designate a committee chair. The committee will select the essay questions from a bank of essential questions from core courses

The questions will be provided to candidates at least one month prior to the date the essay must be submitted (see attached template for current questions).

As a final activity students will meet with the committee to discuss their essays. A rubric (attached) will be used to assess candidate responses. This assessment aligns to ELCC Standards 1.1, 1.4, 2.3, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 6.1.

Response 1**ELCC Standard 1.1, 1.4- Visioning at the District Level****ELP 612- Educational Leadership, Policy and Governance**

Explain the concept of organizational vision. How could you as a district leader assess, redesign and implement policies to align with your organization's vision? How can research shape a district's vision and support diversity initiatives?

(enter response here)

Response 2**ELCC Standard 1.1, 1.4- Visioning at the District Level****ELP 614- Business and Finance in Public Education**

Explain how public education is funded and the implications of equity perspectives on allocations at the federal, state and local levels. How can these financial resources be mobilized and/or supplemented to support your district's vision of improving student learning?

(enter response here)

Response 3**Standard 2.3- Promoting Positive School Culture at the District Level****ELP 618 Curriculum Theory and Development**

What is your 'platform of beliefs' as it pertains to teaching and student learning? How does it support Best Practices? How would you assist your district in applying Best Practices in Teaching and Learning? How do you personally engage in Best Practices?

(enter response here)

Response 4**Standard 3.2- Managing Organization, Operation, and Resources****ELP 615- School and Community Relations**

How would your staff be engaged to identify strengths and weaknesses and plan for district-wide improvement? What communication strategies would you engage in to promote understanding and collaboration?

(enter response here)

Response 5**Standard 4.1, 4.2, 4.3- Collaboration with Families and Community****ELP 615- School and Community Relations**

How would your staff engage the parents and community to identify strengths and weaknesses and plan for district-wide improvement? What outside agencies might you involve? How can you build support networks and coalitions to increase confidence in district plans and programs?

(enter response here)

Response 6

Standard 4.1, 4.2, 4.3- Collaboration with Families and Community

ELP 611- Legal Aspects of Public School Administration

What are key elements of laws relating to Special Education Students and how can you as an educational leader ensure that your staff recognizes and advocates for students in these areas?
(enter response here)

Identify an issue that could be of mutual concern to both your district and the community at large. How could district resources be used to help address the area of concern? Community resources?

(enter response here)

Response 7

Standard 6.1- Understanding the Larger Context

ELP 612- Educational Leadership, Policy and Governance

Discuss networking strategies with local and state elected officials that could be used to engage them in supporting student learning? Discuss equity in educational funding and how you could engage elected officials in the distribution of resources to support programs? What policies and regulations should be reviewed to ensure that they support student learning? How does poverty place students and their families at risk? What research can you use to support your positions?
(enter response here)