PROPOSAL: Graduate Certificate in School Improvement

Background

The Graduate Studies Council of the Faculty Senate has approved the creation of the Graduate Certificate in School Improvement. This 9 credit-hour graduate certificate is designed for school districts that wish to partner with WMU to provide job-embedded professional development focusing on school improvement. Due to reductions in the state continuing education requirement for teachers (from 18 credit-hours of graduate work to 6), it has become less likely that practicing teachers continue on for a master’s degree. Thus, graduate enrollments in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies has been on the decline. In addition, with today’s educational policy climate, local school districts are under great pressure to improve student achievement. As a result, districts routinely seek job-embedded professional development opportunities for teachers. This proposal is designed to provide a program that would serve the need of local school districts, and in the process, increase graduate enrollments in the department.

Recommended Action

Create the Graduate Certificate in School Improvement.