

Delaware Principal for a Day will take place
the week of October 27 – 31, 2025
[REGISTER HERE!](#)



BUSINESS LEADER BEST PRACTICES GUIDE

Building a strong talent pipeline today is imperative to the workforce of tomorrow. The **Delaware Principal for a Day** program, established in 1993, aims to create a stronger connection between educators and the business community. With over 80 high schools in Delaware, there is a tremendous need for employers to partner with schools to provide career exploration opportunities from both inside and outside the classroom.

Hosted by Junior Achievement of Delaware—the program strategically places business and community leaders in high schools across Delaware, including public, private, charter and parochial. By participating in this program, you will experience a day in the life of a principal, as well as play a role in the development of our future workforce.

Value Add for Employers:

- ✓ **Insightful Engagement:** Gain a unique perspective on the education system and the challenges and opportunities within it.
- ✓ **Talent Pipeline Development:** Connect with potential future employees early, fostering interest in your industry and building a talent pipeline.
- ✓ **Community Impact:** Contribute to the growth and development of local students, creating a positive community impact.
- ✓ **Brand Visibility:** Increase your company's visibility and reputation within the local community, showcasing your commitment to education and workforce development.
- ✓ **Workforce Alignment:** Help align educational outcomes with industry needs, ensuring that students acquire the skills and competencies necessary for future employment in your sector

How it works:

1. **Select your industry:**

Choose which pathway/industry most closely aligns with your experience.

Accounting | Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources | Architecture & Construction | Arts, AV Technology, and Communications | Business Management & Administration | Education & Training | Finance | Government & Public Administration | Health Science | Hospitality & Tourism | Human and Social Services / Nonprofits | Information Technology | Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security | Manufacturing | Marketing | STEM | Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

2. **Choose your commitment:** *(All levels are important!)*

Awareness/Introductory: I can share my industry knowledge & experiences with students to build career awareness (Can include JA Career Speaker Series)

Exploration/Prepare: I can offer job shadowing, mock interviews, or facilitate industry specific projects (Can include JA Job Shadow, JA Career Exploration Fair)

Immersion/Succeed: I'm ready to hire! (Can include co-op, apprenticeships and/or internship experiences, JA Company Program)

3. **Be strategically matched!**

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Principal for a Day Checklist:

Please follow this check list to ensure you are making the most of your experience.

- **Fill out the Online Registration Form:**
 - Provide your information and goals for the program
- **Be Matched!**
 - Mid-September, you will receive an email connecting you the school you have been strategically matched with
- **Schedule a Call with your Principal/CTE Contact:**
 - Confirm the best date/time for the visit the week of Oct 27 – 31
 - Learn more about the schools' goals and share information about your background and desired level of involvement [awareness/introductory, exploration/prepare and immersion/succeed] – and how that can be incorporated into your visit and beyond.
- **Best Practice Call:**
 - Attend a virtual orientation hosted by the Junior Achievement of Delaware in October (date TBD)
- **Review Agenda and Prepare for Visit:**
 - Utilizing the industry and commitment level identified by the business leader, the school is responsible for creating a half or full day agenda for the visit.
 - A sample agenda can be found on the next page including key elements to consider including.
 - Prepare for your role or any presentations prior. Ask the principal about technology, time constraints or anything you should bring.
- **Visit Day:**
 - Business leader shadows principal, meets with educators, talks with students, etc.
 - If time allows, complete the reflection worksheet together.
- **Ongoing Partnership:**
 - Aim to create long-lasting partnerships between business and community leaders and schools. Principal for a Day program serves as a catalyst for ongoing partnerships.
 - Discuss next steps! Many schools are looking for organizations to partner with, can you find a way for your business or others to get more involved with the school you're visiting?

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[Check out this sample agenda!](#)

Key element examples:

1. Work based learning element [Ex. Job Readiness presentation]
2. Meeting with teachers/coordinators/guidance counselors
3. Firsthand experience: Shadowing principal for a tour, duties, etc.
4. Speak directly with students about what they're proud of / how they can be supported / how they are preparing for workforce, etc.

Principal for a Day – Agenda SAMPLE

7:30	Arrival at Delaware State University Main Campus
7:30 – 8:00	Breakfast Duty (with Dr. McCants/Mr. Brock)
8:00 – 8:45	Job Readiness Skills Presentation to College Readiness Seminar Class
8:45 – 9:05	Meet with Dr. Evelyn Edney, Head of School
9:05 – 9:30	Meet with High School Counseling Team
9:30 – 9:35	2 nd Floor Hall Duty
9:35 – 10:30	Price Building Tour & Academic classrooms
10:30 – 11:15	Administrative Team Meeting in main office conference room
11:15 – 12:15	Lunch/Lunch Duty
12:15 – 12:25	Travel to ECS Middle School <i>Located at DSU Living & Learning Commons Building (Old Sheraton Hotel)</i>
12:25 – 1:21	Building tour & Academic classrooms
1:21 – 1:25	Hall Duty
1:25 – 2:10	Softskills Presentation to Exploring Business class
2:10 – 2:30	Meet with Middle School Student Support & Activities Teams
2:30 – 2:40	Bus Duty (administrative team)

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If you are interested in participating in this year's program, please register [here](#).