



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER**  
**School of Education**

**EDLR 5360 – The School Superintendent**  
**Fall 2026**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: David Simmons, Ph.D.  
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Office: Online  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Credit Hours: 3

**Catalog Course Description**

This course focuses on an examination of the role of the school superintendent in the public schools. Special attention is given to the leadership responsibility of the school superintendent.

**School of Education Mission**

The School of Education prepares educators and leaders who transform lives through learning. Through excellence in teaching, scholarship, innovation, and partnership, we strengthen the educator workforce, advance educational opportunity, and improve outcomes for learners, schools, and communities across East Texas and beyond.

**Course Overview**

This course is part of the UT Tyler Texas Education Agency (TEA) approved Superintendent Educator Preparation Program. It develops the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for executive leadership in Texas public education through authentic applications aligned to the Texas Superintendent Standards. Weekly activities, assignments, due dates, and supplemental resources are maintained in Canvas.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, candidates will:

- Apply the Texas Superintendent Standards to authentic leadership situations.
- Analyze governance, policy, finance, and accountability systems.
- Lead strategic planning and continuous improvement initiatives.
- Foster ethical leadership, communication, and stakeholder engagement.



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- Support instructional leadership and organizational effectiveness.
- Use data to improve district performance and student outcomes.

### Texas Educator Preparation Program and Certification

This course contributes to preparation for the Texas Superintendent (EC–12) certificate. Completion of this course alone does not result in certification. Candidates must complete all requirements of the TEA-approved Educator Preparation Program, meet all TEA/SBEC requirements, and successfully complete the TExES Superintendent (195) examination.

### EDLR 5360 – Course Assignments

Students will demonstrate mastery of course outcomes through a variety of graduate-level learning experiences. Assignments may include:

- Professional discussions
- Leadership case studies
- Reflective writing
- Strategic planning activities
- Governance analyses
- School finance applications
- Policy analyses
- Organizational systems analyses
- Accountability evaluations
- Community engagement planning
- Executive leadership simulations
- Professional presentations
- Applied district leadership activities
- Leadership interviews
- Quizzes or knowledge checks
- Professional artifacts
- Superintendent certification preparation activities
- Culminating leadership project

| Evaluation Category                         | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|
| Professional Engagement and Participation   | 15%        |
| Leadership Discussions and Reflections      | 15%        |
| Strategic Leadership Analyses               | 30%        |
| Applied District Leadership Projects        | 25%        |
| Culminating Executive Leadership Assessment | 15%        |



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|       | Evaluation Category | Percentage |
|-------|---------------------|------------|
| Total |                     | 100%       |

### Category Descriptions

#### Professional Engagement and Participation (15%)

- Professional discussions
- Collaboration
- Participation in learning activities

#### Leadership Discussions and Reflections (15%)

- Reflection papers
- Leadership analyses
- Discussion activities
- Professional journals

#### Strategic Leadership Analyses (30%)

- Governance analyses
- Finance applications
- Policy analyses
- Accountability studies
- Organizational systems analyses

#### Applied District Leadership Projects (25%)

- Strategic planning
- Community engagement plans
- District improvement projects
- Executive leadership presentations
- Professional artifacts

#### Culminating Executive Leadership Assessment (15%)

- Comprehensive district leadership project
- Executive presentation
- Strategic improvement plan
- Other culminating assessment



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**Specific assignments, point values, grading rubrics, and due dates are maintained in Canvas. The instructor may modify individual assignments or their weighting within each evaluation category to support course objectives and respond to current issues in educational leadership, provided that the overall evaluation categories remain substantially consistent.**

### **Required Course Resource**

Odell, M., & Simmons, D. (2026). Learning to See School Systems: Power, Practice, and Improvement in Public Education. Kendall Hunt Publishing.

Paperback ISBN: 978-1-975509-77-4

eBook ISBN: 978-1-975509-78-1

### **Required Professional Resources**

Current links to all resources are maintained in Canvas.

#### Certification and Professional Standards

- Texas Educator Certification
- Texas Superintendent Standards
- Texas Teacher Standards
- Texas Principal Standards
- State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC)
- TExES Superintendent (195)

#### Curriculum and Instruction

- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
- High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM)

#### Accountability and Improvement

- Accountability Manual
- Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR)
- Texas School Report Cards
- Effective Schools Framework (ESF)
- Texas Strategic Support Plan (TSSP)
- Financial Accountability System Resource Guide (FASRG)

#### Law and Governance

- Texas Education Code (TEC)
- Texas Administrative Code (TAC)



- Commissioner Rules

#### Professional Organizations

- TASA
- TASB
- TASBO
- Texas Public Charter Schools Association
- Education Service Centers (ESCs)

#### Suggested Leadership Resources

- Dr. Cindy Woody's UT Tyler Principal Certification YouTube Series (recommended to better understand principal preparation, supervision, and coaching)
- Official TExES Superintendent (195) Preparation Materials

#### Course Organization

The course is delivered over a fifteen-week semester through instructional modules. Canvas contains the official course calendar, assignments, rubrics, announcements, and supplemental resources.

#### Learning Activities

Learning activities may include discussions, case studies, simulations, leadership reflections, strategic planning projects, policy analyses, presentations, data analysis, and other activities identified in Canvas.

#### Assessment

Grades are based on successful completion of required learning activities. Assignment descriptions, grading criteria, rubrics, and due dates are maintained in Canvas.

#### Professional Expectations

Candidates are expected to demonstrate professionalism, ethical conduct, collaboration, reflective practice, effective communication, and leadership behaviors consistent with the Texas Superintendent Standards.

#### Communication and Canvas

Canvas and UT Tyler email are the official communication tools for this course. Students are expected to monitor both regularly. Canvas is the authoritative source for course content, schedules, assignments, and grades.



### **University Policies**

Students are responsible for complying with current UT Tyler policies regarding academic integrity, accessibility, student conduct, Title IX, FERPA, attendance, and other university requirements. Official policies and student resources are available through the UT Tyler policy and resource pages.