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## LEADERSHIP, STUDENT PREPAREDNESS AND STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH: THREE TOP ISSUES FOR EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

By Holly J. McKenna, Administrative & Communications Assistant, The Council

Leadership, student preparedness and student mental health were the three hot topics during roundtable discussion held at a pre-Institute event prior to the Opening Keynote of the 2019 Winter Institute and Lobby Day. The discussion was sponsored and presented by THE COUNCIL'S Cabinet Committee, a group focused on the priorities for assistant superintendents.

The interactive discussion was opened to all attendees. The facilitators were [Kristine Orr](#), South Glens Falls and [Kelly Zimmerman](#), Elementary Principal & Director of Special Education, Pine Valley, with Signature Partner Thoughtexchange.

Educational leaders were asked to discuss current hot topics, issues of concern and district challenges. Conversation was generated during the session using Thoughtexchange's engagement tools to connect stakeholders, share ideas and create a list of commitments to take back to their districts.

Thoughtexchange is an online collaborative forum where people can share and consider each other's ideas. It doesn't promise solutions, but a chance for deep collegial conversations.

All exchanges are confidential and anonymous, and participants are asked to be polite and respectful and to report any thoughts that are rude or hurtful.

Before the session, [Vreneli Banks](#), Associate Director, THE COUNCIL and Director of LEAF, Inc., reached out to future participants through the online forum to ask them what were the most important topics that they would like to discuss with their peers.



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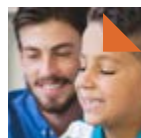


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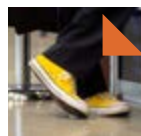
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