

## Significance of the Study

1 First of all, the present study is significant to the field of education in general because it builds upon the available body of knowledge related to teacher morale and principal leadership. 2 Several studies have examined the relationship between teacher morale and principal leadership; 3 however, this particular study focuses on three geographically distinct schools located on the east side of a large suburban school district in southeast Texas. These schools are innately 4 unique in their characteristics and challenges. Another significance of this study is that it focuses on three Initiative Middle Schools 5 as a means of providing an in-depth look into this challenging level of education. 6 Much of the present research focuses on elementary education, high school education, or a combination of levels of education. 7 In addition to its overall significance and relevance for the field, this research is important to the school system in which the study was performed. 8 In particular, this study can lead to potential improvements in the principal preparation program in order to raise teacher morale and, thus, student achievement. 9 With the demands on this growing school system to hire and retain teachers, this sort of principal preparation program improvement could prove very beneficial.