

Dear Superintendent,

The Kentucky Department of Education has partnered with the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) to bring a research-based professional development program to Kentucky to train and support highly effective educational leaders to advance the pace of reform in our state. This program is called LEAD-Kentucky.

The research is clear and unambiguous – if you want to create a great school, you need a strong principal. Researchers also believe that strong leadership is a critical component in turning around low-performing schools. Since we wanted the selected program to be of the highest quality and to have an immediate impact on as many schools as possible, we partnered with the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) in April 2013 to start training an initial cadre of Kentucky educators.

LEAD-KY focuses on enhancing the leadership skills of current principals and district leaders involved in supporting schools. It will also be a tool used to develop Kentucky's aspiring principals. We chose this program as the engine for LEAD-Kentucky for several important reasons:

- ✓ NISL has a track record of success – there are several large-scale evaluations of the program that have found that schools led by NISL graduates increase student learning faster than comparable schools.
- ✓ NISL is focused on helping educators to become instructional leaders by increasing their leadership skills, subject area knowledge, and ability to implement best practices.
- ✓ NISL utilizes best practices in adult learning from education, business and the military to increase participant learning including computer simulations, case studies, and job embedded practices.

The summer of 2016 will begin our third year for KDE to facilitate this very important work. To date, we have trained over 250 educators (district administrators, principals, assistant principals, teacher leaders, etc.) This work will be facilitated by Kentucky educators. Our facilitators are seasoned and experienced with the NISL Executive Development Program and have a vast level of experience working with schools and districts. Please send an email expressing your interest and your contact information to kdenisl@education.ky.gov.