

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.
- ✓ NISL employs a train-the-trainer implementation model which will allow us to implement LEAD-Kentucky with facilitators drawn from the best local Kentucky educators and sustain the program in the future.

We will be offering regional trainings across the state in the summer of 2018 in order to allow your districts to participate in this exciting opportunity at a convenient location. If you are interested in participating or receiving more information please email your contact information to [kdenisl@education.ky.gov](mailto:kdenisl@education.ky.gov).

Sincerely,

*Kelly Foster*

Kelly Foster  
Associate Commissioner  
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

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