



Lead Professional Educator Designation

NIET's training and support for teachers seeking the Lead Professional Educator Designation empowers participants to grow as teacher leaders, leverage instructional expertise, make data-driven decisions, and foster collaborative partnerships. Teachers attend and engage in four core teacher leadership-focused virtual sessions and receive a support visit.

2026 Dates:

Below are the tentative dates for the 2026 cohorts.* Participants can anticipate receiving their certificate of completion in February 2027.

- **Cohort 1-3:** July 8, July 16-17, September 15-16, and November 5-6
- **Cohort 4-6:** July 9, July 21-22, September 17-18, and November 9-10
- **Cohort 7-9:** July 10, July 23-24, September 21-22, and November 12-13

*Note: Cohort assignment will be decided with district/cooperative and participant input.

Our session includes:

- Building Foundational Leadership Structures for Teachers
- Leveraging Instructional Expertise for Continuous Improvement
- Using High-Quality Data to Drive Decision Making
- Facilitating Growth for Others Through Collaborative Partnerships

Overview	
Who?	Individuals interested in earning Lead Professional Educator Designation to be considered an experienced mentor by Arkansas DESE
What?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 virtual sessions (synchronous/asynchronous) • Half-day coaching and support visit per participant
Cost?	\$2,200/participant

“This has been a wonderful learning experience. After 33 years of teaching, this has fueled me to try something new and to continue learning.”

— Patricia Dailey, Teacher, Salem High School, Arkansas