



The NIET Teacher Leader Fellows Program

A cohort of dynamic teacher leaders chosen from schools nationwide to drive instructional improvement

The NIET Teacher Leader Fellows Program is a one-year training program for teacher leaders. It is designed to provide teacher leaders with opportunities to deepen their knowledge of NIET's systems of improvement to more effectively support the work taking place within and beyond their school and district.

As part of the fellowship, each will receive a stipend and participate in professional development activities designed to enhance their leadership capabilities. Each fellow will also shadow NIET's team locally to advance their coaching skills while maintaining their full-time employment status with their respective

districts. They will be released to participate in program activities throughout the year.

To be eligible for the NIET Teacher Leader Fellows Program, applicants must be a teacher leader and have at least three years of experience supporting other educators. New cohort applications open every spring.

“The NIET Fellows Program has helped me become more reflective, collaborative, and committed to working toward the achievement of all students and teachers.”

— Paloma Peralta Carrillo, Principal and 2025 NIET Fellow, Sun Valley Elementary School, Somerton School District No. 11, Arizona

Creating a Teacher Leader Legacy

The NIET Teacher Leader Fellows Program impacts teacher leaders in 3 key ways:

- Meaningful growth in skills including coaching teachers, identifying teacher and student needs, and instructional leadership
- Increased confidence in building others' capacity and empowering colleagues
- Stronger foundational understanding of leadership best practices



Amplifying Voices of Leadership

Through the program, fellows are given opportunities to extend their voice and spotlight the work happening in their districts.

2026 NIET Teacher Leader Fellow Cherie Tan shared her experience using teacher leadership to make school improvement sustainable. In an article published by The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) entitled "Why Teacher Leadership Matters for Lasting School Improvement," Tan discussed how to move from observation to action, collaborating with teacher and administrators to analyze data and develop targeted strategies for instructional improvement.

"When teacher leaders and administrators work together with a shared vision, schools build systems that drive continuous improvement and lasting impact."

— **Cherie Tan**, Math Specialist and 2026 NIET Fellow,
Oak Ridge Schools, Tennessee