



GROWING STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS

Big Changes Bring Opportunity in Arkansas

With the passage of the LEARNS Act, Arkansas made historic changes to K-12 education, including new requirements for third grade literacy and increased teacher compensation. NIET is supporting district leaders to respond to these changes and opportunities through executive coaching that builds on

the support they receive from the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators (AAEA). NIET's support provides superintendents with two additional years of coaching that build on the initial year of coaching provided to new superintendents by AAEA.

Teacher leadership and compensation opportunities

This year, the Arkansas Department of Education selected NIET and our teacher leadership training as an approved pathway for Arkansas teachers to earn the Lead Professional

NIET's training and support for teachers seeking the Lead Professional Educator Designation empower participants to grow as teacher leaders, leverage instructional expertise, make data-driven decisions, and foster collaborative partnerships.

Educator Designation. Arkansas's Professional Educator Designations provide career opportunities and financial incentives to teachers while also building instructional leadership capacity. NIET's training and support for teachers seeking the Lead Professional Educator Designation empower 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 trainings and receive on-site support from an NIET specialist. Earning the Lead Professional Educator

Designation prepares teachers to lead and support their colleagues from the classroom through training and on-site coaching that builds instructional expertise.

Supporting rural communities

Schools in rural communities face many challenges in retaining effective teachers, including the need for educators to serve multiple roles, lower teacher salaries, and fewer resources to address the needs of their students.

NIET's partnership with AAEA and the Walton Family Foundation supports students and teachers in rural parts of the state through the Arkansas Rural Educator Network (AREN). AREN builds instructional leadership and strengthens the implementation of high-quality curricula in rural schools. The network provides an opportunity for educators in rural districts across the state to collaborate and develop communities of practice while receiving expert coaching from NIET. Twenty-three school districts in Arkansas — all of which are located in rural and remote parts of the state — are served by this partnership.

