



**RHODE  
ISLAND**

# **National Institute for School Leadership: Considerations and Application Process**

Prepared by the Rhode Island Department of Education  
Spring 2024



# What is NISL?

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The National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) program gathers 25 transformational school leaders across Rhode Island to build:



**Skills** to create high-performing schools for **all students**



**Agile leadership** to improve systemic processes in schools



Cultures of collective leadership centered on **instruction**



**A community** of learners among cohort participants



# Why NISL?



**Principal quality** is the second-largest factor of student achievement, especially in high-need schools; students at schools of NISL graduates **outperform their peers in reading and math**



As of 2016, NISL was the **only professional learning program** to meet What Works Clearinghouse criteria to positively impact student achievement



Effective principals **attract and retain** high-quality teachers



# NISL Coursework

## Unit 1



1. The Educational Challenge
2. The Principal as Strategic Thinker
3. Rigorous and Adaptive Learning Systems

## Unit 2



4. How People Learn: *Implications for Teaching, Leadership, and School Organization Part 1*
5. How People Learn: *Implications for Teaching, Leadership, and School Organization Part 2*
6. How People Learn: *Implications for Teaching, Leadership, and School Organization Part 2*
7. Promoting the Learning Organization

## Unit 3



8. Leadership for Effective Teaching
9. Teams for Instructional Leadership
10. Culturally Responsive Leadership for Equity
11. Driving and Sustaining Transformation
12. The NISL Program: Inquiry, Reflection, and Closure



# Time Commitment and Responsibilities

September 2024

June 2025



NISL will span **9 months** of the next school year.

From September through June, participants should expect to:

- Participate across 24 days of cohort-based instruction, including pre-work prior to each cohort session
- Engage collaboratively through in-person sessions, led by both local and national facilitators



# Who should apply?

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School leaders interested in **professional growth** and **strengthening their network** to improve school culture and student outcome



**Fast-track principal pathway candidates** ready for RIDE-approved leadership program



School-level administrators interested in **district-level leadership** opportunities to improve school culture and student outcome



# NISL Completer Takeaways



Individualized **action research** project findings



Completion of **Professional Learning Units**



Opportunity to **enact change** in your community



Aspirational benchmark for **advanced certificate**



**Deepened understanding** of school needs



Introduction to **network** of committed school leaders



# NISL Testimonials

"NISL allows participants to come out of their schools and **focus on themselves** and their own learning. This work is important and the ability to engage in it is absolutely an opportunity one must not pass up!"

Lynn Prentiss '19

Executive Director, UCAP

"NISL has been an **incredibly engaging and rewarding professional learning experience**. As a building principal, NISL has exposed me to a variety of invigorating new understandings and skills to leverage in **supporting students and staff** with a systems approach. **Networking** with amazing colleagues from across Rhode Island has been a huge benefit, as well. Without hesitation, I highly recommend participating in NISL if you have the opportunity – it is so worth your time and effort!"

Daniel Seger '24

Principal

East Greenwich

"NISL is a great opportunity to **explore leadership topics at a deeper level** with colleagues from a variety of administrative positions, backgrounds, and experiences. Some of my most meaningful learning came from **collaborations with principal and administrator colleagues** discussing education research, best practices in education, and direct application to our schools. At the center of this learning, was our guiding principle of what's in the **best interest of our students.**"

Andrea Spas '24

Principal

Chariho Public Schools





# Need more information?

Join our upcoming informational session with facilitators:

- Dr. Andrew Anderson, Principal, Barrington Middle School
- Mr. Robert Mezzanotte, Assistant Superintendent, North Kingstown School Department

Meet the NISL  
program facilitators



Review the curriculum and action  
learning project



Engage in a Q&A session



## NISL Information Session:

- **Date:** June 4, 2024
- **Time:** 4:00-5:00
- **Location:** Tides Café, 575 Centerville Road, Warwick (Behind Toll Gate Highschool)



# Interested in applying?

- The application deadline is **June 28th, 2024**. The application can be found [here](#).
- If you have additional questions, email Julie Olobri at [julie.olobri@ride.ri.gov](mailto:julie.olobri@ride.ri.gov).

