



**RHODE
ISLAND**

National Institute for School Leadership: Considerations and Application Process

Prepared by the Rhode Island Department of Education
Spring 2024



What is NISL?

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



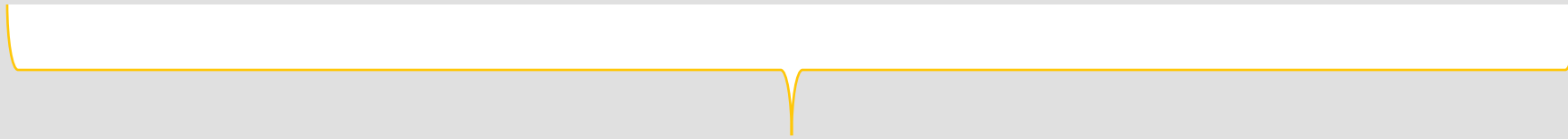
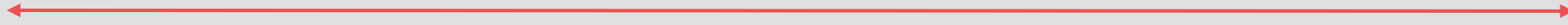
8. Leadership for Effective Teaching
9. Teams for Instructional Leadership
10. Culturally Responsive Leadership for Equity
11. Driving and Sustaining Transformation
12. The NISL Program: Inquiry, Reflection, and Closure



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?



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 to:

Meet the NISL
program facilitators



Review the curriculum and
action learning project



Engage in a Q&A
session



Details coming soon!



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.

