

Project Abstract

The National Institute for School Leadership (NISL), a program of Criterion Education LLC, will partner with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), and districts in their states, to design and implement an Advanced Certification System to develop highly effective principals. NISL professional development programs and practices currently play prominent roles within the principal credentialing systems of Pennsylvania and Mississippi. A SEED grant will allow the project partners to create, implement and evaluate a comprehensive career ladder that leverages top leadership talent as Lead and Master Principals who train and coach less accomplished principals. This system will integrate NISL's proven Executive Development Program, nationally recognized train-the-trainer certification and innovative leadership coaching model—and result in a replicable, scalable and sustainable way to magnify the positive impact of Master Principals on student achievement *across districts and schools*.

We are pursuing this grant under **Absolute Priority 1** (Supporting Practices and Strategies for Which There Is Moderate Evidence of Effectiveness) and **Absolute Priority 4** (Advanced Certification and Advanced Credentialing). We are also applying under **Competitive Preference Priority 2** (Improving Efficiency), **Competitive Preference Priority 3** (Promoting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education), and **Competitive Preference Priority 4** (Supporting High-Need Students). Criterion Education, a division of the National Center on Education and the Economy, meets all requirements of the grant as it is a national nonprofit organization, its NISL Executive Development Program is supported by moderate evidence of effectiveness, and NISL maintains a nationally recognized Advanced Certificate for highly effective school leaders.