

Principals on the Path to Excellence **A High-Impact Support System for Novice Principals**

The National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) seeks an i3 Validation grant to create a support system for novice principals that accelerates their path to excellence and leads to significant learning gains for their students. The foundation of the system will be our Executive Development Program for School Leaders (EDP). Four rigorous quasi-experimental evaluation studies link this program to student achievement gains. The objective of this project is to validate these findings while spurring achievement gains in 750 schools serving 375,000 students, more than half of which will be high-need students. NISL will partner with the city school districts in Jackson (MS), Moreno Valley (CA), and Vista (CA) and the county school districts of Lake (FL) and Osceola (FL), which have committed to be partners and enthusiastic participants in this leadership development effort. Our other partner is Johns Hopkins University, which will perform the independent evaluation with support from Old Dominion University. Three random control trials will be conducted in our focus states (California, Florida and Mississippi) to evaluate the impact that a rigorous training and coaching program has on novice middle school principals in diverse settings. This project will result directly in the desired outcomes of Absolute Priority 1a—Implementing Models of Support for Novice Principals: 1) A significant increase in student achievement and student growth in 750 schools serving 375,000 students, many of them high-need students, and 2) An increased number of principals who are highly effective. This project also meets the criteria for Competitive Preference Priority 1—Improving Cost-Effectiveness and Productivity, Competitive Preference Priority 2—Enabling Broad Adoption of Effective Practices, and Competitive Preference Priority 3—Supporting Novice i3 Applicants.