

Consider Approval of a contract with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET)

1. **Background:**

Curriculum & Instruction is requesting approval of the contract with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) as part of the LASO 3 Strong Foundations Implementation Grant for K-5 Math.

As part of the grant requirements, districts must select a TEA-approved provider to support planning, implementation, and professional development. Southwest ISD has chosen to continue its partnership with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET)—an organization that has successfully supported the district’s instructional framework in the past.

2. **Process:**

Southwest ISD was awarded the Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO 3) Strong Foundations Implementation Grant in late May 2025. This \$914,000 grant, awarded by the Texas Education Agency, is focused on accelerating student learning and strengthening K-5 math instruction across the district. This contract will support teacher and leader training, campus-based coaching, observation calibration, and lesson planning aligned to our new Bluebonnet Math curriculum and Math Instructional Framework. The Executive Director of Elementary, Veronica Cuenca-Wilson, will be working with stakeholders across the district to collaborate, plan, and provide feedback in the implementation of the framework and Bluebonnet Math. The contract with NIET exceeds the \$50,000, which requires board approval.

3. **Fiscal Impact:**

The total cost of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) contract is \$548,400.00. This amount will be paid out of the \$914,000.00 LASO Grant Cycle 3 already awarded to the district.

4. **Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Board approves the contract with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) at the cost of \$548,400.00.

5. **Required:**

Board action.