

NIET seeks districts and schools to pilot character development resources during 2021-22

The National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) is committed to building educator excellence to give all students the opportunity for success. Our vision is that every student in America is taught by an excellent teacher and supported by effective leaders every year. As part of this vision, NIET is developing a companion tool aligned to the organization's research-based Principal Standards Rubric (PSR) that will **support school leaders in integrating effective character development** and related **social and emotional learning (SEL) skills into a school's instruction, culture, and climate** through an initiative called, **Accelerating Character Education and Development (ACED)**.

ACED will build the capacity of not just principals but also the principal supervisors that coach, evaluate, and support school leaders. By building the capacity of school and district leaders through the use of ACED tools and resources, **character development will become part of a school's fabric, supporting a strong academic and social emotional culture** that enables **all students the opportunity for success in school and in life**. In order for ACED to be effective and immediately relevant, all resources are being strategically developed according to best practices, reviewed by national and global experts in character education, and piloted in school districts by district and school level leaders.

NIET is **actively recruiting school districts from across the country to participate in the second year of piloting ACED tools and resources**. Each district or school that is selected and participates in the ACED pilot for the 2021-22 school year will receive:

- A two-day training in character development based on the ACED Character Companion Tool and NIET Principal Standards Rubric (PSR),
- Use of the ACED Character Companion Tool for the 2021-22 school year,
- Training and usage of the NIET PSR for the 2021-22 school year (Optional)
- Two days of implementation, coaching, and consulting support per school,
- Access to ACED Character Development Modules and Resources in EE PASS, and
- A \$3,500 stipend per participating school.

Participating districts and schools will be asked to provide feedback on the tool resources, training, and support by allowing principals and supervisors to complete surveys and participate in focus groups throughout the pilot year. If your district or school is interested in being considered for the ACED pilot during the 2021-22 school year, please complete the interest form [here](#).

With questions, please reach out to Dr. Hank Staggs at hstaggs@niet.org.