

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

1. Background:

Curriculum & Instruction is requesting approval of a contract with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) as part of the LASO 4 LIFT Grant (Leadership and Instructional Foundations for Texas) and SI PLC Grants awarded to Southwest ISD in February 2026. NIET has been selected as the approved provider to deliver technical assistance and capacity-building support to ensure strong leadership, aligned systems, and ensure sustainable instructional improvement across the district.

2. Process:

Southwest ISD was awarded the \$1,180,000 LASO 4 LIFT Grant and an additional \$360,000 School Improvement Professional Learning Community (SI PLC) Grant. The district will partner with NIET, the approved provider, to implement both initiatives. Together, SWISD and NIET will establish clear timelines, professional development plans, coaching cycles, and progress monitoring structures to strengthen leadership development, support HQIM implementation (Bluebonnet Math), and ensure systems alignment. Executive Director of Middle School Anitra Crisp will collaborate with district stakeholders and conduct learning walks with NIET's support. As the NIET contract exceeds \$50,000, board approval is required.

3. Fiscal Impact:

The total cost of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) contract is \$1,006,000. This amount will be paid out of the \$1,180,000 LASO 4 LIFT Grant and \$360,000 SI PLC Grants 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 \$1,006,000.

5. Required:

Board Action