

Consider approval of a contract with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) for the LASO 4 PREP Program Allotment - Mentoring.

1. Background:

Human Resources is requesting the approval of the contract with the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET). This contract is a part of the Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) Preparing and Retaining Educators Program (PREP) Allotment: Mentorship Program, which was awarded to Southwest ISD in February of 2026. The allotment is aimed at increasing the effectiveness and retention of new teachers with less than two years of experience. The grant requires the district to choose a provider for the LASO 4 PREP Mentorship Program. The district reviewed TEA-approved vendors with experience in mentoring and who sustain successful partnerships with Southwest ISD. The district has chosen the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) as our approved provider.

2. Process:

Southwest ISD was awarded \$120,000 for the LASO 4 LIFT PREP Program Allotment - Mentoring Program. The district will partner with NIET, the approved provider, to implement this initiative. Together, SWISD and NIET will establish clear timelines, training plans, and progress monitoring structures via the Texas Mentorship Training (TMT). TMT will provide high-quality, research-based training to mentor teachers and any appropriate district and campus employees who work with or supervise classroom teachers. Human Resources will collaborate with district mentors, mentees, and campus administration to implement the success of the program with NIET's support.

3. Fiscal Impact:

None.

4. Recommendation:

That the Board approve the contract with NIET as our approved vendor for mentoring, through the use of our LASO 4 funds, not to exceed \$50,000.

5. Required:

None.