

## Guidance

# Get school-to-school support from system leaders

Get help and support from system leaders to improve your school.

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## Applies to England

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## Overview

System leadership school-to-school support can be provided by:

- national leaders of education (NLEs)
- national leaders of governance (NLGs)

## National leaders of education

NLEs are headteachers and trust leaders with strong experience of school improvement.

NLEs support underperforming schools, helping them to identify and address areas in need of improvement. These include:

- leadership
- governance
- financial health

NLEs focus on providing additional school improvement capacity to support schools, [through the Department for Education's trust and school improvement offer \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trust-and-school-improvement-offer\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trust-and-school-improvement-offer). Reforms to the NLE programme came into effect in September 2022.

DfE will match schools or trusts with NLEs who have experience of improving underperforming schools, if the school or trust:

- is eligible for support through our improvement offers
- cannot be matched with an appropriate high-quality trust

## National leaders of governance

NLGs are highly effective chairs of governors, trustees and governance professionals, who DfE has designated to support governance improvement in trusts and schools.

The National Leaders of Governance programme is closed for new commissions.

Outstanding external reviews of governance will be completed by 27 October 2023, when DfE's contract with the National Governance Association (NGA), which delivers the programme, will end.

NGA will contact schools and trusts who have a live commission directly.

Guidance on [how schools and trusts can arrange external reviews of their governance \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/external-reviews-of-governance-whats-involved\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/external-reviews-of-governance-whats-involved) is available.

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