

## Indiana Department of Education - School Improvement Summit

March 10, 2020

### School Improvement Technical Assistance Partner Profile

#### **Background**

Achievement Network (ANet) - *One Beacon Street, Boston, MA, 02108*

Contact person - Kennietha Jones, Director of Partnership Development - (216) 339-4804;

[kjones@achievementnetwork.org](mailto:kjones@achievementnetwork.org)

Achievement Network (ANet) is a nonprofit dedicated to educational equity for *all* students. ANet works with schools and districts in underserved communities to support high-quality classroom teaching - teaching that is grounded in standards, supported by job-embedded professional learning, and grounded in best practices from educators across the country. We do this by providing comprehensive instructional support to schools, including intensive, school-based coaching and professional learning for educators, formative interim assessments, and best-in-class instructional resources.

#### **Please identify the area(s) that your organization supports:**

- Effective Leaders // Ambitious Instruction // Collaborative Teachers

#### **Approach**

- ANet's school improvement services

**Core Model** - a school-level partnership designed to help teachers implement a high quality teaching and learning cycle. The four components of our Core Model are:

1. **Job-embedded coaching and professional development** to build leadership capacity, skill, and strong practices in managing data driven, standards-aligned instructional practices and help educators effectively use ANet's data and resources to improve learning in their classrooms;
2. **Interim assessments** for grades 2-11 in math and ELA, designed in-house, and aligned to the standards;
3. **Instructional tools and resources** that supplement ANet's assessments by providing teachers with tools to address student needs surfaced by assessment data;
4. **Access to our network and group learning events** to collaborate and learn best practices from across ANet's network and learn from in-person professional development events and online resources.

**System Advising** - system-level partnerships designed to tackle significant systemic barriers to quality classroom instruction relating to professional learning, instructional materials, and assessment strategies. ANet supports district and state leaders by: 1) developing a vision for quality instruction and rigorous expectations; 2) designing a clear assessment strategy; 3) selecting standards-aligned tools and materials; and/or 4) creating quality professional learning

systems and cultures. By building leaders' capacity and increasing coherence across these areas, ANet equips educators to provide high-quality instruction for all students.

- **How ANet differentiates our services to meet the unique needs of partners**

ANet has built strong relationships and expertise grounded in Indiana's unique context and the Indiana Academic Standards. ANet coaches are trained to be true partners to schools: we take the time to understand the wants and needs of each school and district partner to ensure that our support is well-aligned.

ANet's System Advising team led instructional walkthroughs in Indianapolis Public Schools to help the district define an instructional core. During the walkthroughs, leaders noticed that many ELA classrooms were not using high-quality texts. Once we identified high-quality texts as an urgent need, ANet supported IPS leaders in setting a professional development plan for the year that incorporated how to select and use high-quality texts in instruction.

ANet also participated in School Quality Reviews alongside the State Board of Education. ANet served as the ELA and math instructional experts, where we provided actionable instructional feedback for teachers and leaders.

- **Attributes of ANet's ideal partner district and school**

ANet works with districts and schools of all starting points, capacity levels, and school models. We aim to serve those that most need our support, as demonstrated by students not yet meeting the bar set by college and career ready standards (overall or by disaggregated group). We've found that the most important indicator of strong partnership with ANet is a strong desire to prioritize the work of strengthening standards-aligned instruction. ANet district and school partners must believe that all students are capable of high student achievement, and must actively work to ensure that their practices and structures reflect this belief.

### **Impact**

ANet partner schools nationwide continue to see student achievement gains based on end-of-year summative data. Following are a few examples of success stories in Ohio:

- Over the last 3 years, **6 of the top performing schools in Cleveland are ANet partners.** These schools also improved their growth on the OST.
- ANet schools in Ohio that have partnered with ANet for 3 years and improved their practice in the 2017-18 school year made **percentile gains of nearly 10 points in ELA and math over the last 3 years.**

Third party evaluations confirm ANet's impact on educational outcomes for low-performing schools. As part of the Investing in Innovation (i3) grant, Harvard's Center for Education Policy Research conducted a randomized control trial in 2015 and found that **ANet partner schools with the right structures in place (such as common planning time) received 6 months of additional learning compared to students in control schools** over the 2-year study.