

Indiana Department of Education

School Improvement Technical Assistance Partner Profile

Background

Name: National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

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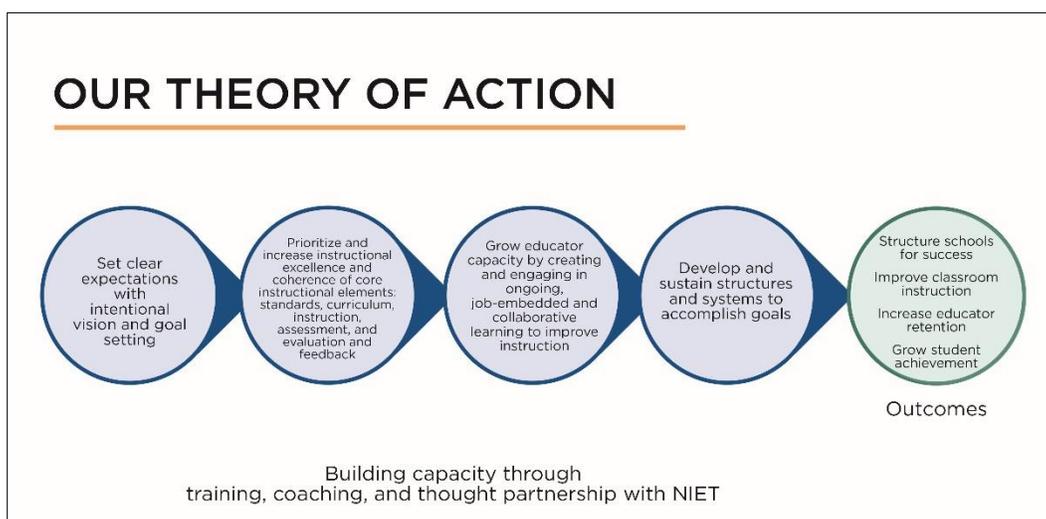
Mission: NIET is a 501(c)(3) public nonprofit with 20 years of experience in advancing evidence-based practices through job-embedded professional development. NIET provides both onsite and online support to states, districts, schools and universities addressing multiple aspects of educator effectiveness including professional learning, school and district leadership, teacher leadership, educator observation, and school improvement solutions.

NIET’s vision is that every student in America is taught by an excellent teacher and supported by effective leaders every year. We believe intentional, sustained, and high-quality investments in educators directly result in success for all students and are essential to eliminating equity gaps. As a result, NIET is committed to raising achievement levels for all students by focusing on the most powerful lever for change—teachers and the leadership that supports them.

Over the last 20 years, NIET has trained more than 30,000 teacher leaders and 10,000 school leaders across the nation.

Approach

Knowing that teacher quality is the single biggest in-school factor for school success, NIET’s work focuses on educator effectiveness and is grounded in proven principles that lead to school improvement. We support schools and districts in a number of areas: setting a clear vision and goals; prioritizing instructional coherence; growing capacity through collaborative learning; and establish effective systems and structures to ultimately improve student outcomes.



School improvement, at its core, is about improving instruction, and NIET has a 20-year record of raising student achievement and closing achievement gaps in high-need schools. We know each school has its own set of unique challenges. We work within schools to develop a strengths-based needs assessment and then tailor our support to improve educators' effectiveness.

Support options, while tailored to individual schools and districts, often include support for observation and feedback systems, development of teacher leadership models, support for mentoring programs, and onsite coaching for teacher and leaders. Through this work we focus on four key elements that lead to school success: instructional excellence, collaborative learning, collective leadership, and reflective culture.

Our School Improvement Solutions model is rooted in proven principles that create effective structures for teacher leadership and foster a culture for educators and students alike to excel. We have partnered with 1,000 districts across 20 states, including 8,500 public, private and charter schools, and we work in all educational settings—in urban, rural, suburban and tribal districts.

Impact

The National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) has a 20-year track record of success is illustrated in over 50 studies, conducted by different researchers using varied methodological approaches. Please visit the research section of our website, www.niet.org, to review additional studies highlighting our impact on students and schools. An example of one such study is:

Barnett, J. H. & Wills, K. C. (2016). Narrowing the gap: Achievement gaps in Indiana TAP schools. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Washington, D.C.

Barnett and Wills (2016) examined the impact of NIET initiatives on Black-White and Hispanic-White achievement gaps in Indiana schools. First, the authors compared achievement gaps in 32 schools that began partnering with NIET in the 2010-11 school year with other Indiana schools. Study results indicate NIET schools narrowed the Black-White gap in ELA and Hispanic-White gap in ELA and math more than other Indiana schools have. Study results also indicate NIET schools outperformed their matched schools; while achievement gaps at the NIET schools narrowed, most gaps at the matched schools widened.