

Indiana Department of Education

School Improvement Summit

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School Improvement Technical Assistance Partner Profile

Background

[Public Consulting Group, Inc.](#)

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[Public Consulting Group's Education Practice](#) is committed to helping schools, districts, and state education agencies strengthen their performance, streamline their operations, and improve their programs and instruction—so that all students have what they need to succeed. By delivering a multidisciplinary and holistic approach to solving client problems, we strive to always exceed clients' expectations, build lasting partnerships, and provide sustainable, long-term solutions.

PCG helps administrators and teachers to become more effective leaders by providing coaching, professional development, and online tools and resources. PCG subject-matter experts support instructional strategies that promote collaboration between teachers and create a learning environment that supports diverse learners. The PCG approach, as outlined below, includes supporting engagement of families and the community for the benefit of students.

Approach

I. [School Wide Reform Model for Low-Performing Schools](#)

PCG services include expertise in school management and change, English/language arts mathematics, instructional and organizational leadership, coaching, special education, English language learners, and the Indiana Academic Standards. Services include, but not limited to, site-based education experts who will provide embedded coaching of teachers and leaders; small and large group professional development experiences; face-to-face, on-line and blended professional learning communities; and participation in online courses to build understanding and skills. PCG will develop customized modules, tools, and approaches based on a Needs Assessment to develop a year-long approach to build the capacity of educational leaders and teachers at both the school and district level.

II. [PCG's Playbook for Leaders and Teachers: Technical Assistance](#)

As an integral part of School Improvement, PCG provides [Principal's Playbook](#), a personalized coaching and professional learning platform delivering just-in-time support to school leaders and teachers through multiple functions including "Plays", Coaching, Curated Resources, and Online Learning. Implementing *Playbook* with a focus on school improvement planning is one immediate action that Indiana's schools and districts can take to address the School Improvement process. Components of the *Playbook* include: effective practices, realistic actions, community of peers, professional learning and coaching.

III. [Equitable Access for all Students](#)

[English Language Learners](#)

PCG's [ELL Framework](#) is designed to provide instructional direction to classroom teachers, leaders, and practitioners. The framework expands on Stanford University's Understanding Language Six Key Principles for ELL Instruction and offers additional guidance on scaffolding instruction, as well as giving school leaders a set of practices to support general education and English language development (ELD) classrooms.

[Students with Disabilities](#)

PCG has a long history of supporting students with disabilities by partnering with districts and state agencies to identify needs and to plan, design and implement professional development and technical assistance. Topics include, but are not limited to, co-teaching and inclusive practices, writing standard aligned goals,

Universal Design for Learning, specially designed instruction, progress monitoring, functional behavior assessment and behavior intervention plans.

Literacy Support

PCG has developed comprehensive literacy professional development that includes intensive training in implementing high leverage literacy practices and designing instruction that meets the needs of all learners. PCG also has a support system of professional learning focused on early literacy which is intended to develop pedagogy and content skills in foundational literacy for K-3 teachers. Professional learning opportunities consist of both face to face sessions, online modules, and literacy coaching in select schools.

Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Since 2010, PCG has been actively engaged in state and district initiatives to implement Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) as a strategy to provide increasingly intensive tiers of support to help all students achieve grade level proficiency in literacy. This work supports state and district leaders' planning, implementation and evaluation of the extent to which MTSS initiatives improve educator practices that, in turn, contribute to improved student outcomes. Supports include onsite professional development, planning support and [software solutions designed to support MTSS and data based decision making](#).

Direct Student Support Services

As a long-time provider of after school academic programs, PCG has developed expertise in designing content that is rigorous and connected to students in-school academics. [EPIC \(Educational, Purposeful, Innovative, and Creative\)](#) themes and modules are engaging, experiential, and appropriate for students across K-12 grade levels. PCG's instructional materials are grade-range specific and facilitated by program staff hired and trained to work with Indiana's students in partner districts.

Differentiating services: PCG has extensive experience working in Indiana and provides a multi-faceted approach to professional learning. We understand that schools and districts that are engaging in significant improvement work may require differentiated entry points and pathways into the change process. To that end, PCG will customize the approach focused on the need and the appropriate level of intensity and support.

Attributes of ideal partner district and/or school: PCG has partnered with low performing urban, suburban, and rural schools and districts throughout the country. Throughout these engagements, we have found the greatest success in schools and districts when conditions and assurances are in place to ensure a strong partnership with PCG throughout the entire school improvement process.

Impact

1. Chartering New Leadership: Professional Learning and Established Best Practices of Principals in Charter Schools in Urban Districts.

- Nearly half of the schools studied (47%) gained more than 15 points in **mathematics** for the lowest performing students between 2013 and 2014.
- Nearly half (47%) of high participation schools increased the percent satisfactory or above in **reading**.

2. The Tennessee Academic Specialists Program.

The Tennessee Academic Specialists (TAS) Program was a statewide effort to support Tennessee's Focus Schools as they worked to eliminate achievement gaps between subgroups of students.

- There were 336 Focus or Priority Schools that received capacity-building services from 125 experienced educators recruited and trained by PCG.
- In SY 2012-2013, 167 Focus Schools outperformed non-Focus Schools in the percentage gain in proficiency of economically disadvantaged students in all subjects.
- At the end of three years, 80% of schools were removed from the Focus Schools list.