

School Improvement Technical Assistance Partner Profile

Background:

- **Organization Name:** UChicago Impact
- **Organization Address:** 1313 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637
- **Organization Contact:** Katie Boylan, katieboylan@uchicago.edu, 773.834.3532
- **Organization Mission:** UChicago Impact develops diagnostic tools and supports for school leaders and educators grounded in decades of rigorous, foundational education research on what matters most for school improvement and student success. Our two main systems of support, STEP (Strategic Teaching and Evaluation of Progress) and 5Essentials, are designed to empower educators to use research and actionable data to improve practices that promote positive student outcomes.

Central to realizing this mission is our effort to develop the capacity of our partners to gradually take ownership of the work and the data-driven continuous improvement efforts at the core of STEP and 5Essentials. As a result, UChicago Impact is focused on providing context-specific support, leveraging research and data to help guide the work, and building the capacity of educators to lead and sustain improvement efforts.

UChicago Impact Supports:

As the organization behind the 5Essentials, UChicago Impact is uniquely positioned to support all five areas: Effective Leaders, Ambitious Instruction, Collaborative Teachers, Supportive Environment and Involved Families.

Approach:

UChicago Impact is committed to ensuring that all students receive opportunities for an excellent education that propels them on a path to a successful future. Implementation of our research-based tools, STEP and 5Essentials, is combined with professional learning designed to support educators in using reliable data to inform and differentiate practices to meet the needs of all students—including underserved student populations, such as low-income and special education students.

STEP is a research-based formative assessment, data management, and professional learning system designed to build teacher capacity for literacy instruction and provide educators with the data necessary to improve student achievement in literacy across grades K-5. The 5Essentials System is a survey-based diagnostic assessment, actionable reporting site, and an improvement-focused professional learning series that provides data and insight into schools' organizational strengths and areas of opportunity across the five essential factors for school improvement: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environment, and Ambitious Instruction.

As an organization, we work to realize this vision through partnerships with schools and districts focused on positioning educators to be data-driven practitioners who can create sustainable school and student success across multiple aspects of learning. We seek to establish relationships grounded in a common belief in the ability to continuously improve and that leveraging research, data, and thoughtful supports for educators are key components for fostering improvement. These beliefs are key attributes of our partners.

UChicago Impact recognizes that the path to progress is unique for each school, district, and context. As a result, we strive to honor our partners, understand their context, and draw upon their strengths as we collectively work to define and address the unique needs of each school and district with a goal of improving learning conditions and achievement for all students in a school.

Impact:

UChicago Impact has reached more than 7 million students, parents, and teachers across 36 states and 6,000 schools, including some of the highest performing school districts and networks nationwide. Schools using UChicago Impact's systems of support have seen impressive improvements across aspects of culture and climate, leadership development, and literacy.

The STEP Assessment supports over 3,000 teachers and 110,000 students across 31 states, 82 cities, and 270 schools. 94% of school leadership teams report a positive change in literacy systems and structures after engaging in the STEP Professional Learning Series. 86% of students who reach STEP 12 by the end of third grade meet or exceed state standards. Implementing STEP increases the odds that teachers will have the data and skills they need to improve student outcomes.

UChicago Impact's 5Essentials System, which showed that schools strong on three or more of the Essentials were ten times more likely to improve student outcomes over time, has been utilized by over 6,000 schools across the country, including statewide in Illinois, to help define school improvement and promote data-informed improvement efforts. This is most evident in Chicago where the 5Essentials has helped the Chicago Public Schools publicly define school quality as it has embarked upon its ambitious efforts to improve academic outcomes for students. These efforts have gained momentum and garnered national attention as Chicago Public Schools has improved student outcomes at a faster rate than any other large urban district in the country and 96% of school districts across the country.^[1]

^[1] Reardon, S.F., & Hinze-Pifer, R. (2017). Test Score Growth Among Chicago Public School Students, 2009-2014.