

Founder's Award Finalist

Despite the challenges created by the pandemic, NIET's partner schools have shown success in outperforming similar schools and increasing retention of effective teachers. The 2022 Founder's Award finalists continued to advance during the pandemic, using NIET's tools and resources to support instructional excellence and learning acceleration, provide coaching from expert leaders and trainers, and engage a large network of educators united around shared learning. NIET is proud to partner with each of these schools, and it was an exciting moment this year to recognize their achievements.

2022 Founder's Award Finalist

Somerset Elementary

Somerset Independent School District, Texas

Somerset Elementary, located southwest of San Antonio, serves 590 students representing a majority-minority population, with Hispanic students making up 93% of the student population. Of the total percentage of enrolled students, 86% are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Serving all students is at the cornerstone of Somerset's work, and Principal Nieves Carrales and her team have utilized the TAP System's distributed leadership model to ensure every student has access to an excellent educator. Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic in recent years, Somerset Elementary has continued to sustain academic progress, outperforming the state score in all subjects (ELA/reading, math, and writing) in 2019 and 2021. Somerset also increased performance over the state average in all categories from 2019 to 2021. In 2021, the school increased the percentage of students who are considered approaching grade level or above in ELA/reading to 82% and maintained the percentage of students approaching grade level or above in math at 87%. In 2022, Somerset Elementary was nominated by the Texas Education Agency and selected as a National Blue Ribbon School.



Somerset Elementary students outperformed similar students statewide in math and reading on the 2021 state assessment

