

A Focus on Strong Instruction Drives Improvement

Since partnering with NIET in fall 2018, Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Technology Academy in Knox County, Tennessee, has improved student achievement and growth by focusing on job-embedded coaching and instructional excellence. The hard work of students and staff was recognized this year in a visit from U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and First Lady Jill Biden.

Sarah Moore Greene is an elementary magnet school with a focus on global leadership. Students learn leadership skills, and culturally enriched studies help them embrace all cultures, including learning the Spanish language. The school offers opportunities that include STEM

programming and arts education, and has over 500 students, 79% of whom are African American and 80% of whom are economically disadvantaged.

Years of consecutive low student-growth ratings motivated Sarah Moore Greene to start a culture shift. NIET staff partnered with the school to help leaders diagnose barriers teachers faced in delivering effective instruction, and specialists work with teachers and leaders to coach them over the course of the school year.

The school has used coaching conversations and schoolwide instructional strategies to create a strong school culture around a common language and goals. Over 50 teachers at Sarah Moore Greene have

worked together under the leadership of Principal Robin Curry to strengthen their instruction and to ultimately support student growth. "My role has been focused on being a lead learner to ensure that we have a reflective culture and that all of our work supports the vision of our school," said Principal Curry. "I have been honored to be a part of a culture that embraces lifelong learning."

Sarah Moore Greene has proven their idea that "teachers, principals and support staff are the driving force behind our educational mission." By prioritizing teacher and student needs, they have shown that strong growth is possible when educators are united around a common vision and goals.

