

## Results from Selected New Studies of NIET’s Impact: Mellichamp Elementary School

### Mellichamp Elementary School’s Implementation of School Improvement Solutions

In summer 2018, an Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) district leader contacted NIET for support with Mellichamp Elementary School, which had received the Priority School designation for the 2017-18 school year from the South Carolina Department of Education. Priority Schools are defined by the department as a school that was performing at or below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile among all schools in the state.

Mellichamp began a partnership with NIET to implement School Improvement Solutions (SIS) for the 2018-19 school year. Based on Mellichamp’s needs assessment, special supports were provided on standards alignment, rigor and assessments, and strengthening student engagement through thinking and problem-solving.

Hudgens and Hall (2020) examined early impacts of SIS implementation and found that SIS has helped to make positive changes in school performance and culture. Results highlight the importance of building supportive partnerships and aligning support services to the needs of individual schools. Key findings include:

**Improved Student Achievement:** Mellichamp increased the percentage of students meeting/exceeding expectations on state assessments from 2018 to 2019 for all subjects. As shown in Figure 1, the percentage of students passing the state assessment increased by 4 points in English/Language Arts and 7.6 points in Mathematics from 2018 to 2019. Gains were even larger in Science, with an increase of 8.4 points, and Social Studies, with an increase of 27.4 points. For these achievements, Mellichamp’s South Carolina Department of Education School Report Card ratings for student performance on state assessments moved up one level from “Unsatisfactory” (bottom 10<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide) in 2018 to “Below Average” (10<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> percentile) in 2019.

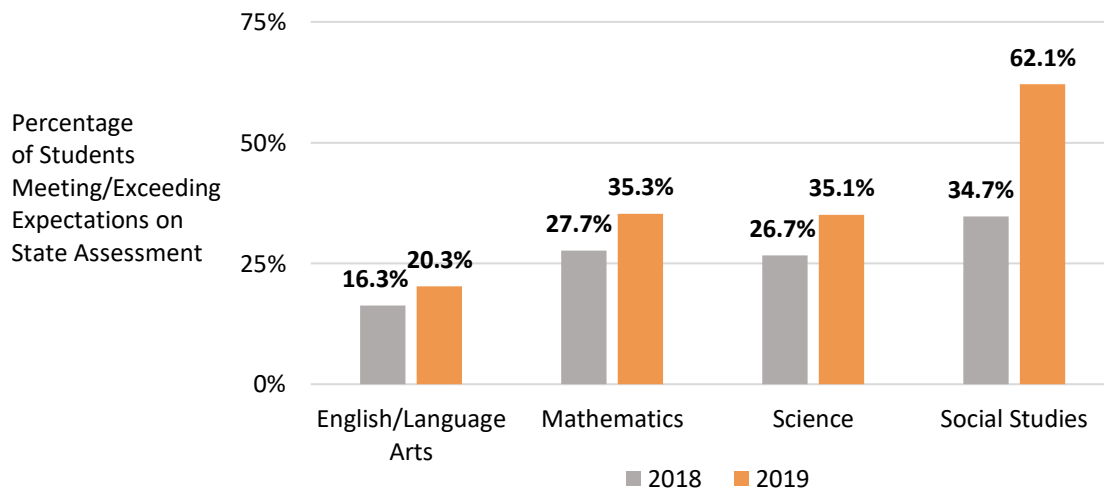


Figure 1. Mellichamp Elementary students improve performance on state assessments.

**Increased Teacher Satisfaction with School Environment:** Mellichamp teachers expressed increased satisfaction in their school environment from 2018 to 2019 (Figure 2) in a state-administered survey. In 2019, 95% of surveyed teachers reported satisfaction with the learning environment, and 100% reported that they were satisfied with the social and physical environment. Satisfaction in school-home relations doubled between 2018 and 2019.

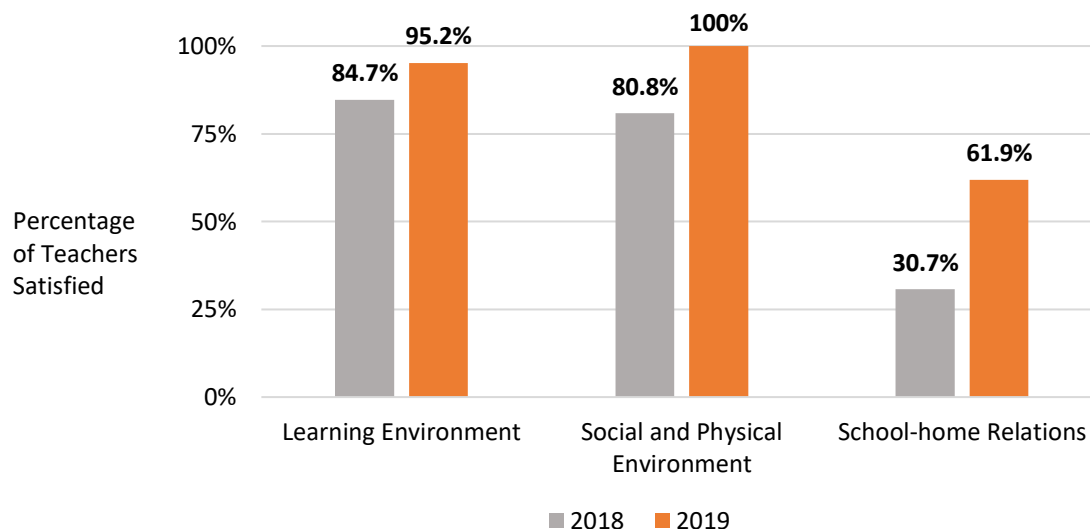


Figure 2. Mellichamp Elementary teachers report increased satisfaction with the school environment.

Mellichamp Elementary no longer has the Priority School designation, meaning that their performance has moved above the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile in the state. Inspired by Mellichamp’s success, district leadership requested NIET support services for other district schools.

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*“I wish I knew about NIET in my first year as principal.  
Our work with NIET has resulted in an instructional culture that is more  
focused, reflective and purpose-driven. Teachers are delivering instruction  
with more clarity, depth and enjoyment.”*

*Hayward R. Jean  
Director of Student Services, Orangeburg County School District*

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