



Free District Opportunity: Build Teacher Capacity with Instructional Framework

Iowa has selected an instructional framework for statewide use to help schools develop a common language on what excellent teaching looks like and build teacher capacity. Beginning in the 2019 school year, districts can opt in, on a free and voluntary basis, to use the *National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET)* Iowa Instructional Framework System. **Register by April 15** by contacting Lora Rasey at the Iowa Department of Education at 515-725-0648 or lora.rasey@iowa.gov.

Why Do We Need This?

An instructional framework creates a common language and vision for effective, high-quality teaching across an entire school district. Last year, when the state surveyed districts, roughly 40% were using a framework already, demonstrating the need for greater usage of instructional frameworks across the state.

If districts are already using a framework, they may continue to use the one they selected, or they may transition to the state-sponsored framework at this point.

NIET's research-based instructional framework is built around four domains of practice (instruction, planning, environment and professionalism) with specific indicators for each, creating a framework for teacher practices and feedback, and guidance for professional growth.

By utilizing an instructional framework, schools create consistency in the coaching teachers receive – and they support teachers as instructional leaders.

Benefits for Districts:

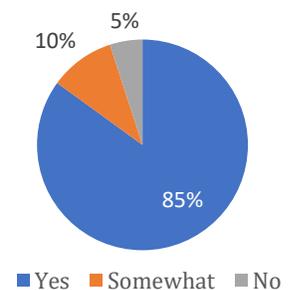
Free and easy to use: The resource is no cost to districts, and NIET provides training and support for participating schools.

Increase teacher retention: In a 2018 survey across 8 states, 85% of principals said NIET's support helped retain effective teachers at their school.

Build teacher leadership: Schools that share a common definition of effective teaching are well-positioned to maximize the impact of teacher leaders, who can coach their peers and better identify areas of strength and growth for improvement.

Online tools: Participation comes with access to materials and video modules to build educator effectiveness in line with the instructional framework.

“Principals say NIET’s support has helped retain effective teachers at my school.”



“NIET has provided a framework for what effective teaching should look and sound like. Through such incredible, reflective practices, teachers are always thinking about the impact their instruction is having on student achievement.”
—Chris Coffelt, Superintendent, Central Decatur Community School District

How Does This Work?

NIET will provide training opportunities and support for participating schools through a variety of approaches, including:

3-day Observer Training, delivered regionally, for all district leaders utilizing the NIET Iowa Instructional Framework.

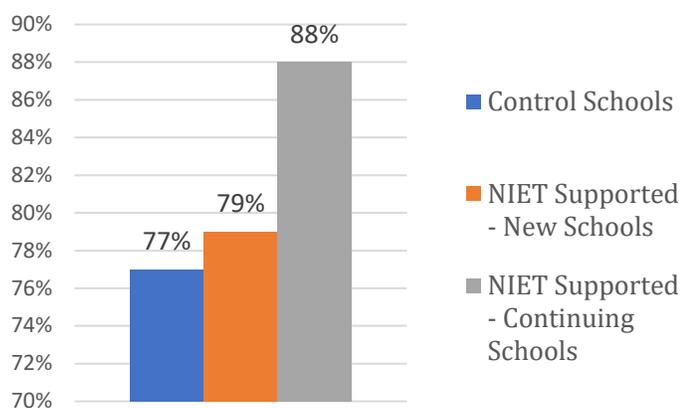
Train the Trainer Series. This training series will be offered to a specific cadre of selected educators who will become certified to train and coach future observers using the observer training agenda and materials.

Online Tools and Resource Training through NIET's web-based platform, which includes resources and materials focused on supporting educators' understanding of the Iowa Instructional Framework. These resources include a video library, training modules, online trainings and professional development library.

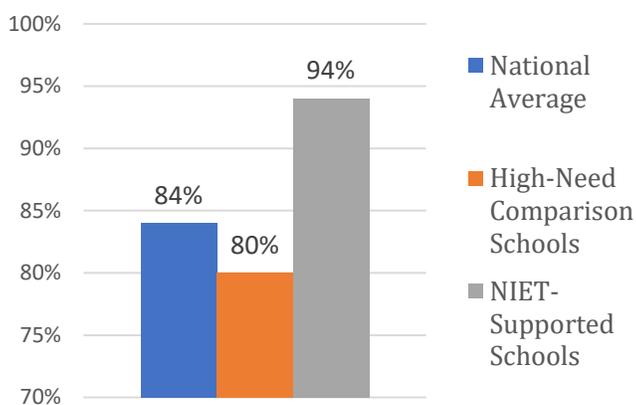
Additional Support: NIET will also offer additional regional trainings throughout the year to support coaching on the framework.

The Results: NIET-Supported Schools Retain Teachers and Sustain Student Growth

Percentage of Schools Achieving One Year or More of Growth



Percentage of Teachers Retained



How Can I Opt In?

For districts choosing to use the NIET Iowa Instructional Framework, implementation begins in fall 2019, with the capacity for 100 districts to participate. **Register by April 15** by contacting Lora Rasey at the Iowa Department of Education at 515-725-0648 or lora.rasey@iowa.gov.