Support for Implementing High-Quality Curriculum

Equipping leaders to maximize the impact of instructional materials

NIET’s curriculum support places instructional materials at the center of instructional improvement efforts and empowers school leaders to successfully marry curriculum implementation with strong instructional practices. Leaders matter, and their role is key to making all aspects of the instructional core effective at improving student outcomes. The leader’s role is particularly critical when districts and schools adopt new curriculum and instructional materials. However, school leaders often need additional support to provide clear direction on best practices to help all teachers strategically use new materials. NIET’s support intentionally focuses on principals and teacher leaders to equip them to strengthen their teachers’ effectiveness with high-quality curriculum and materials.

How NIET Supports Schools to Maximize Use of High-Quality Instructional Materials

Our support for school leaders builds capacity around essential leadership systems and decisions that bring together materials and instructional practices so that ownership of the work is rooted at the school campus. Partnerships begin with a strengths-based needs assessment, during which NIET specialists examine the school’s content-specific vision for teaching and learning; the use of research-backed content pedagogy; coherence of structures such as schedules and grading; expectations and routines for using the materials; and aligned priorities for professional learning.

All curriculum training is paired with on-site support that is customized to align with the strengths and needs identified in the strengths-based needs assessment. Trainings target foundational knowledge and skills needed by leadership teams to lead curriculum implementation and instructional improvement efforts:

• Planning and progress monitoring strategically
• Achieving excellence in the classroom with instructional preparation
• Establishing structures and routines to support teachers with their planning
• Conducting learning walks
• Analyzing student work to understand how materials are being used
• Using data to inform professional learning for teachers

In both training and on-site support, we leverage the teacher learning progression and aligned leadership moves (see backside), which are rooted in the practices and strategies NIET has found to be effective.

For more information about the NIET Curriculum Leadership Series, contact info@niet.org.
Teacher Learning Progression on Curriculum

Content and Standards
The What
Curriculum connections:
Teachers demonstrate understanding of academic standards and curriculum
Instructional rubric connections: Standards and Objectives; Teacher Content Knowledge

Basic Instruction
The Why
Curriculum connections:
Teachers demonstrate understanding of why behind the curriculum
Instructional rubric connections:
Lesson Structure and Pacing; Questioning; Activities and Materials; Student Work

Pedagogy
The How
Curriculum connections:
Teachers deliver the curriculum proficiently
Instructional rubric connections:
Grouping; Academic Feedback; Presenting Instructional Content; Teacher Knowledge of Students

Emerging Differentiation
For Whom
Curriculum connections:
Teachers use the curriculum to meet the needs of their students
Instructional rubric connections:
Questioning and Academic Feedback

Student-Led Learning
By Whom
Curriculum connections:
Teachers transition the learning to be student-led instead of teacher-led
Instructional rubric connections:
Thinking; Problem-Solving; Teacher Knowledge of Students

Leaders will learn how to leverage the aligned leadership moves to support teacher learning.

Cultivate a shared vision for instructional excellence
Maintain instructional focus
Establish expectations and utilize routines to improve curriculum use
Provide curriculum-focused teacher coaching and development
Set a curriculum implementation strategy and monitor progress