



The National Institute for Excellence in Teaching Gets Results

Research continues to play an important role in the work that we do at the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) by providing key insights, discoveries and data. In addition to NIET's recent research on the effectiveness of TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement and the work of the NIET Best Practices Center, independent research and governmental organizations released important findings in 2013 that reflect on NIET's impact.

The first study, conducted by Interactive, Inc., shows how TAP schools in Louisiana are outperforming similar non-TAP schools. The second study by the Tennessee Department of Education illustrates the state's record growth on the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), or the Nation's Report Card. NIET is actively involved in the training of Tennessee teachers statewide through its Best Practices Center, which has a significant impact on supporting improvement in classroom practices.

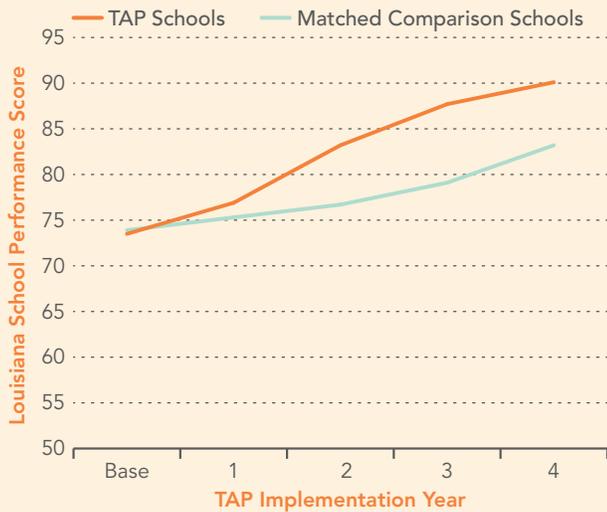
TAP Schools Outperform Similar Schools Each Year and Over Time in 2013 Study of Louisiana TAP

A new study released in fall 2013, *Findings from a Two-Year Examination of Teacher Engagement in TAP Schools across Louisiana*, evaluated the impact of the TAP System across TAP and non-TAP schools in Louisiana. Conducted by Interactive, Inc., a national firm specializing in education program evaluation, the study examined the impact of the TAP System on student achievement and teacher practices in elementary, middle, and high schools in urban, suburban and rural communities across Louisiana.

The results (see Figure 1 on the next page) find that the TAP System leads to improvements in the academic performance of students. As demonstrated by the graphic, when comparing matched schools to TAP System schools, the TAP System schools began to outperform in the first year and in each subsequent year of the evaluation.

FIGURE 1

Louisiana TAP Schools Outperform Matched Schools Each Year



Source: Interactive, Inc.

For the full report, visit <http://www.tapsystem.org/publications/interactive-louisiana-student-achievement.pdf>.

Tennessee Teachers Help Students Make Record Growth, in Part by Acting on New Performance Information and Support

The State of Tennessee selected the TAP Teaching Standards and evaluation process as the basis for the classroom observation portion of the new statewide teacher evaluation system, the Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model (TEAM). NIET trained more than 5,000 evaluators in the summer prior to the launch of TEAM. NIET is also providing continuous support to the Tennessee Department of Education in the form of a statewide training portal available to every Tennessee teacher as well as training, technical assistance and resources for state-level experts supporting districts.

Subsequently, Tennessee experienced the largest all-time statewide growth in a testing cycle on the NAEP, +22 scale score points, according to a report by the Tennessee Department of Education.

Relative to other states, this finding demonstrates that since 2011, Tennessee has made nearly 50% more growth than any other state when all scores are combined, and 13% more growth than any other state since the NAEP was first administered in 2003.

NIET believes this illustrates that teachers are eager to act on performance information coupled with strong support for improvement.

This belief is supported by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, who explained in a *Washington Post* Op-Ed that to achieve such dramatic growth, Tennessee "... leaders invested in strengthening the quality of classroom instruction and revamping systems for teacher support and evaluation. They ensured that teachers could use good data from multiple sources to identify learning gaps and improve instruction. They also sought ongoing feedback from educators and others."

"These concepts—developing and supporting the people who do the most important work, using data to inform improvement—are what strong organizations do," Duncan concluded.

Largest Growth on NAEP, Any Testing Cycle



Tennessee students showed unprecedented growth from 2011 to 2013, **increasing more than students in any other state** since all states began taking NAEP in 2003.



For the full report, visit http://www.tn.gov/education/doc/yr_2_tchr_eval_rpt.pdf.