

Teaching Matters knows it's possible to improve achievement for *all* students.



September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012

While many things can affect young people's performance, research consistently shows once they walk through school doors teachers are the single most important factor. In fact, spending three years with a highly effective teacher boosts student results over the long term—and the negative impact of being subjected to poor teaching is equally long-lasting.

For nearly 20 years we've worked hard to promote real and lasting changes to teacher quality. We believe improving high needs urban schools is the moral imperative of our generation. Since we were founded, Teaching Matters has partnered with more than half of the roughly 1,750 public schools in New York City. Most are in underserved neighborhoods.

Thanks for your generous gift in support of our efforts. Your contribution has helped us fulfill our ongoing mission to measurably increase teacher effectiveness, readying all learners for college or careers. We began this work in 1994, and over time we've refined our approach:

- We partner directly with schools to provide intensive onsite support;
- We prepare the most effective teachers to lead teacher teams to accelerate student gains;
- We ensure results oriented instruction and effective use of school data that directly align with the new nationally adopted Common Core standards; and
- We support school leaders to drive a culture of continuous improvement.

As the bar for student achievement is steadily raised, Teaching Matters will continue to identify, build and deliver solutions to teacher- and leadership-specific challenges holding ourselves accountable for results. We have no illusions about what this will require. But we also know if we keep choosing the right allies and making the right investments, in the long run we'll succeed.

Teaching Matters has learned countless lessons about what truly works in urban public schools. We're committed to sharing our successes with the NYC DOE and other key stakeholders. By expanding our sphere of influence, we hope to transform today's high-yield interventions into tomorrow's best practices.

On behalf of Teaching Matters, please allow me to once more thank you for your dedication. Together, we're changing the lives of young people while creating a replicable model to eliminate the achievement gap. Your generosity has helped to ensure that many more children can reap the benefits of higher education and careers - in a society that grows more global and competitive each day. As importantly, they will be in a position to pass on these advantages to future generations.

With all good wishes,

Lynette Guastaferrro
Executive Director

**22,910 New York City
students receiving our
services**

**115 City schools that have
implemented our
programming**

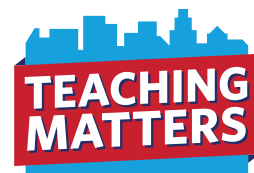
**95 percent of City students
served who are minorities**

**84 percent of City students
served who are impoverished**

**1,588 City teachers engaged
in professional learning
experiences**

**4.4 million dollars directly
invested in City schools**

**Learn more at
www.teachingmatters.org**



**Great teachers.
Bright futures.**

Please take this opportunity to learn more about our past year activities.

Demonstrated Success in Student Achievement through Our Writing Matters Teacher Coaching Model

Writing Matters is our flagship literacy program that we specifically created for use in urban middle schools. Drawn from a scientific base and developed with nationally recognized experts, the program also incorporates a rich teacher coaching model characterized by:

- One-on-one and professional learning team support
- Changes to school-wide professional practice
- Alignment of teacher performance with new Common Core standards

We're happy to share that this approach has proved its mettle. A recent independent study revealed that our program significantly improved students' writing success in academic years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 when paired with our strong coaching component and teamwork for teachers.

On average, the approximately 1,000 6th graders who participated improved by nearly 4 percentage points in their writing skills, while some schools posted average gains for their students of over 5 percentage points. These results substantially outstripped those of comparison schools not served by Teaching Matters.

Advancing Our Organization-Wide Approach to Professional Development through Teaching for Impact

Our latest investment, Teaching for Impact, builds upon the success of the Writing Matters strategy—with the goal of bringing our unique brand of professional development to 115 additional City schools by 2017.

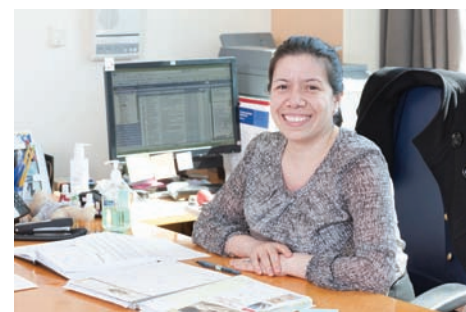
The most up-to-date research and our nearly 20 years of field experience have shown that the best way to both strengthen and retain teachers is to assist in:

- Developing clear expectations for effective instruction
- Offering opportunities to work collectively for continuous improvement
- Establishing a data-driven feedback loop related to clearly defined goals

Teaching for Impact is designed to provide this support. Our model emphasizes developing and keeping the highest performing teachers who can advance the practice of mid-level performing peers. Ultimately, the program broadens positive student outcomes based on measurable goals that schools have, themselves, established. So far, we've focused on literacy and math. In the future we'll include other subjects.

This year we began piloting Teaching for Impact with the help of a third-party evaluator. From January through August, 50 teachers from six City middle schools successfully completed the first phase. Phase Two, which began in September and will run through August 2013, is being conducted with 24 Phase One participants who were trained as "teacher leaders."

Early data have shown positive results. New practices are beginning to take hold through the development of model teams who are capable of establishing and reaching evidence-based student learning goals. There have also been demonstrated commitments from school leaders.



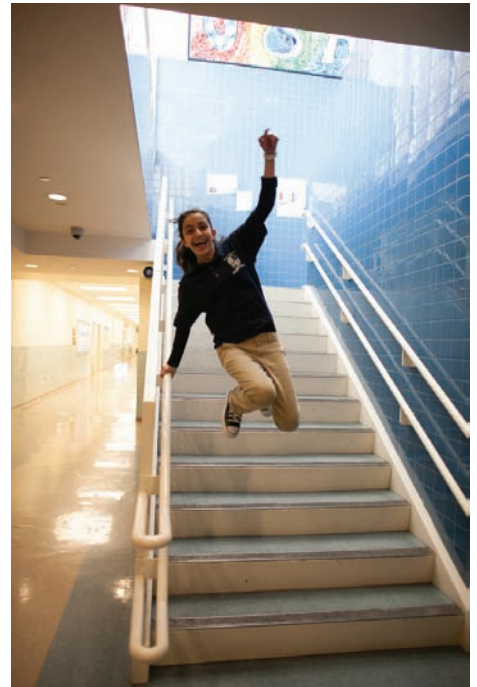
Strengthening Organizational Expertise and Expanding Our Sphere of Influence

Teaching Matters is proving it is possible to boost student achievement in challenged urban schools. For almost two decades we've been targeting what has now come to the fore as the best in-school predictor of student achievement: teacher quality. And in our ongoing efforts to advance teacher effectiveness, we're not alone.

We're committed to working closely with thought partners who are widely recognized in the field. This year we established an Advisory Board of professional learning community, assessment and Department of Education experts which includes:

- Linda Darling-Hammond, Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University
- Kim Marshall, Author of Rethinking Teacher Supervision and Evaluation: How to Work Smart, Build Collaboration, and Close the Achievement Gap
- Josh Thomases, Deputy Chief Schools Officer for Academics at NYC DOE
- Dr. Alan M. Lesgold, Professor and Dean, University of Pittsburgh School of Education

To further strengthen our expertise, we hired new math and literacy content specialists along with a continuous improvement expert.



Thank you to all who make great teaching for excellence in education possible.

\$100,000+

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Your support allows us to work at schools where there is the greatest need and the greatest potential to make a difference.

\$0-\$999

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