

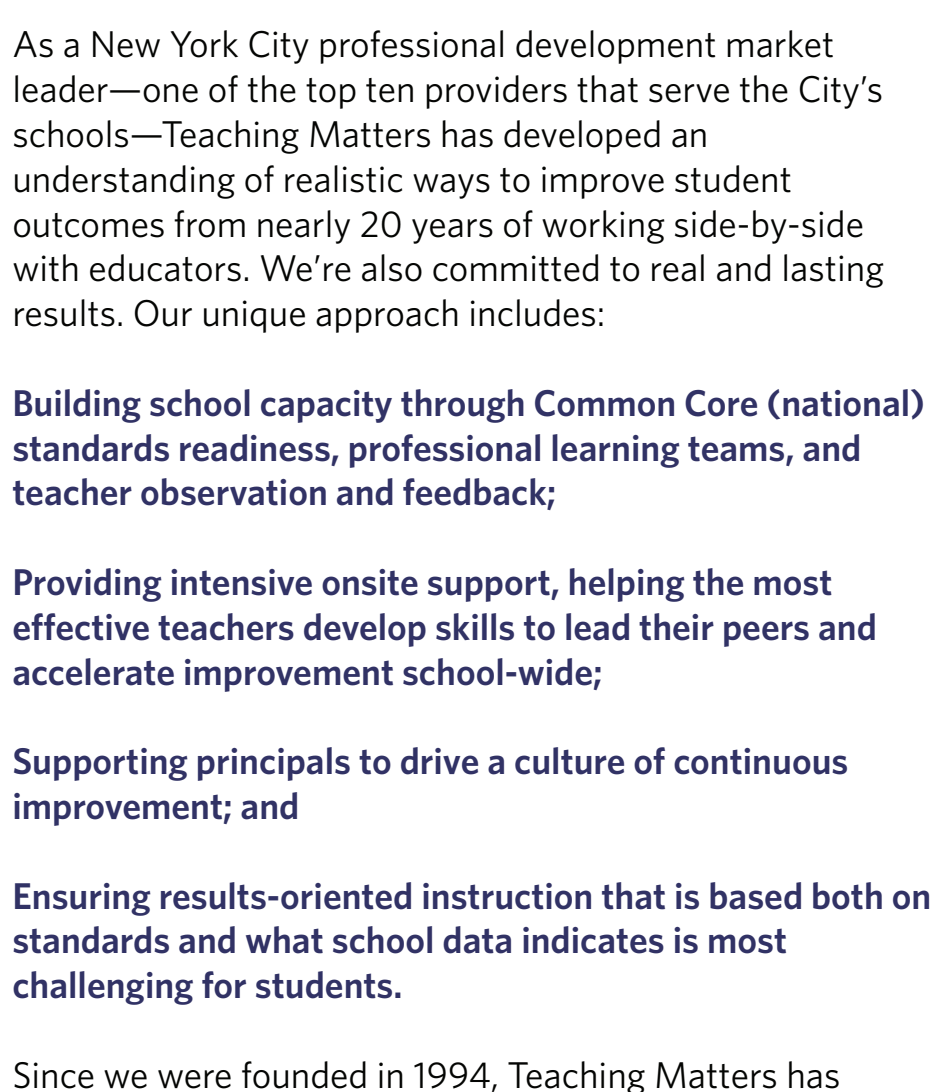


Great teachers.
Bright futures.

September 2013

The 2012 - 2013 school year is officially behind us—and, because of your dedication and support, Teaching Matters has made great strides. We're so grateful that you are part of our community, especially as we face a year of great changes and challenges.

The demands that today's schools face are alarming, and it is clear: education in this country is radically unequal. Millions of urban students arrive to school already two years behind, and leave schools without even basic math and reading skills. These deficits can set them back for the rest of their lives.



Teaching Matters' mission is to measurably increase teacher effectiveness: one of the most critical factors for student achievement. Our services transform how educators work together in urban public schools. We also partner with school leaders to create a work environment that equips teachers to succeed in the classroom.

As a New York City professional development market leader—one of the top ten providers that serve the City's schools—Teaching Matters has developed an understanding of realistic ways to improve student outcomes from nearly 20 years of working side-by-side with educators. We're also committed to real and lasting results. Our unique approach includes:

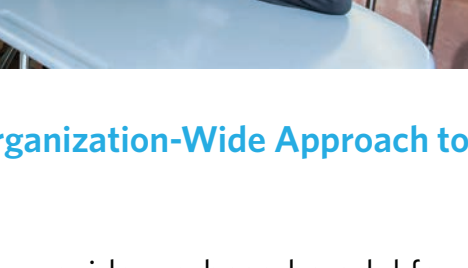
Building school capacity through Common Core (national) standards readiness, professional learning teams, and teacher observation and feedback;

Providing intensive onsite support, helping the most effective teachers develop skills to lead their peers and accelerate improvement school-wide;

Supporting principals to drive a culture of continuous improvement; and

Ensuring results-oriented instruction that is based both on standards and what school data indicates is most challenging for students.

Since we were founded in 1994, Teaching Matters has partnered with more than half of the City's 1,750-plus public schools. Most are in underserved neighborhoods.



In our most comprehensive partnerships with schools, our reach has expanded over the past year with:

- 25,685 New York City students impacted by our services
- 117 City schools that have comprehensively implemented our programming
- 97 percent of City students served who are minorities
- 79 percent of City students served who are impoverished
- 1,761 City teachers engaged in professional learning experiences
- 4.7 million dollars directly invested in City schools

We've also strengthened our visibility through the launch of an organization-wide rebranding effort. In addition to a revamped website, we have a more active social media presence—with solid statistics. Just this past spring Executive Director Lynette Guastafarro was on NPR's Morning Edition; she spoke about the City's teacher evaluation system. And, this August, members of our team had a peer reviewed article published in the Journal of Staff Development.

As expectations for achievement steadily increase throughout the City, Teaching Matters is committed to developing and delivering teacher and leadership strategies that help young people reach their highest potential. Your involvement is integral to our success. Please allow us to take a moment to reflect on our key achievements over the past year:



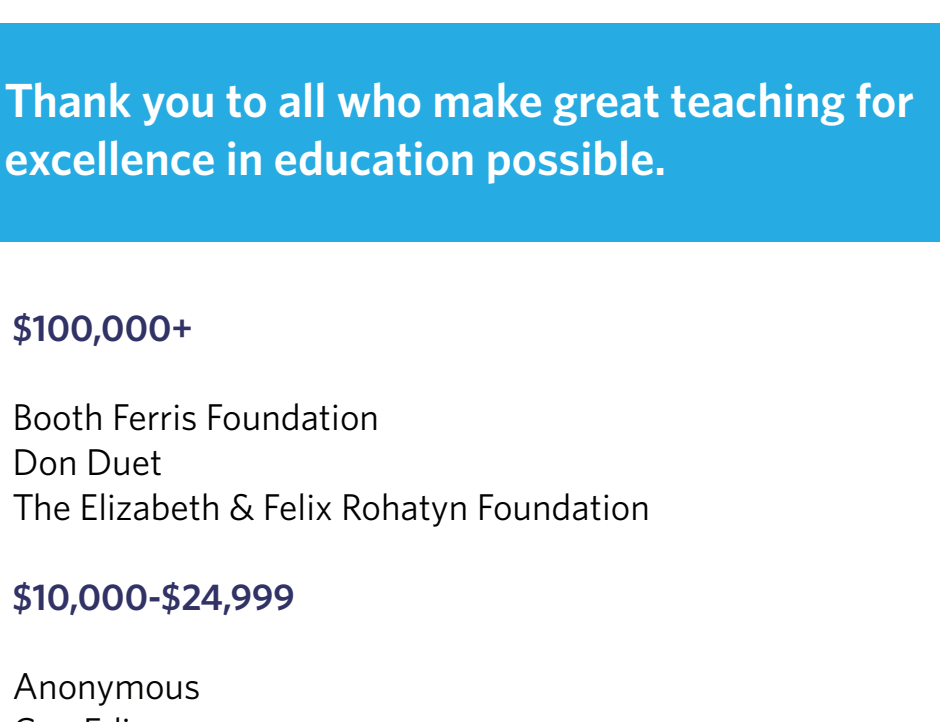
Teaching for Impact, Our Organization-Wide Approach to Professional Development

Teaching for Impact is our new, evidence-based model for professional development. It is designed to help the highest performing teachers further grow—giving them both an incentive to stay on as teachers and the tools to help mid-level teachers increase their effectiveness with this guidance, thereby boosting positive student outcomes. The program builds upon our robust teacher coaching model, introduced in 2010, that has demonstrated statistically significant improvements in student performance in an independent study.

Teaching for Impact's mid-study pilot data have shown positive results. New practices are beginning to take hold through the development of model teacher teams who are capable of establishing and reaching evidence-based student learning goals. In addition, nearly 40 teachers have been surveyed with these results:

- 97% of respondents attributed some aspect of their professional growth this year to the pilot teams; and
- 97% of respondents felt their school improved as a result of the core pilot.

Ongoing evaluations are being conducted to determine the overall effects of Teaching for Impact and to measure teacher- and student- specific progress. We look forward to sharing final results of the pilot when the evaluation is completed.



Launch of the Teaching Matters Network

On July 1st, the Teaching Matters Network formally launched with 24 schools under the auspices of the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE). Beginning School Year 2013 - 2014, we will provide network schools with a wide array of operational support. Our efforts will include multiple supports and structures that: improve instruction; promote teacher leadership and retention; and assist school leaders in optimizing their strategies for using data for effective school planning and decision-making. The Teaching Matters Network will give us a platform for researching and disseminating best practices in teacher effectiveness, data-informed instructional techniques and strategies, and shared leadership and accountability. It will also serve as a powerful vehicle for scaling our successes—including expanding delivery of Teaching for Impact to 115 schools in five years.



Citywide Delivery of Professional Support on Integration of 21st Century Tools

During the past school year, Teaching Matters delivered Common Core aligned professional development to more than 200 NYCDOE Division of Non-Public Schools (DNPS) teachers throughout the non-public system.

We also provided over 20 workshops to approximately 250 Title I teachers on the DNPS's online learning system that assesses, monitors and supports students in order to ensure they are always performing at or above grade level.

In addition, we prepared more than 30 schools to use DNPS's new virtual learning system that supports continued literacy, math and other learning from home. Finally, we provided nine parent fairs throughout the City to educate families on use of both of DNPS's online systems. More than 2,300 parents and children attended these events.



Our organization is recognized as a real change agent in public education. We've spent two decades fighting for urban students' futures and share ownership of student outcomes with the educators we support. Our job isn't done until there are real, measurable increases in teacher effectiveness.

At Teaching Matters we firmly believe that all children deserve a quality education, and that positive change comes when teachers are positioned to be leaders. We know that you share our conviction—and, on behalf of those we serve, thank you once more. Your ongoing support allows our organization to continue to design and deliver targeted programming that levels the playing field for today's learners, who are poised to become tomorrow's leaders.

With all good wishes for the coming fall,

Lynette Guastafarro

Lynette Guastafarro,
Executive Director
Teaching Matters

www.teachingmatters.org



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

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