

Louisiana Department of Education Brings Scale to School Improvement

While the strengths and challenges of every school are unique, supporting district and school leaders who identify and adapt proven best practices to meet their needs can yield meaningful impact and change for their school communities.

The Louisiana Best Practices initiative is an innovative state strategy to identify best practices and support improvements in classroom instruction

at scale. The state is supporting districts to build these best practices through training, on-site coaching, and access to an online library with extensive video and other resources. “We know our students do best when teachers are supported to continually improve their practice,” said Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. “Our goal with the best practices training is to scale that support statewide.”

The best practices identified by the state are based on successful practices implemented in NIET partner districts over more than a decade. The five best practices include instructional leadership teams, teacher collaboration, teacher standards support, principal standards support, and career pipeline support.

In the 2021-22 school year, with a vision for raising student outcomes, the Louisiana Department of Education provided schools across the state the opportunity to participate in best practice training and coaching to strengthen their leadership teams and create teacher collaborative learning opportunities. NIET designed and delivered training and on-site support for each school, and provided educators with access to an extensive video library of classroom lessons and coaching sessions to extend their learning.

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DR. CADE BRUMLEY | Louisiana State Superintendent of Education





- Over **3,000** educators received certificates for participating in the first two best practice trainings: instructional leadership team and teacher collaboration training.
- Support was provided through **220** full-day in-person training sessions and **76** virtual training sessions, followed by **144** site visits.
- Participants in the best practices training reported **significant improvements** in teacher practice and school leader practice.

Participants in best practices training report it is impacting classroom teaching and improving school climate. By identifying evidence-based best practices, providing statewide training in those practices, and

Increased Equitable Access to Effective Educators Through LA BOLD

NIET's work with Louisiana school systems across the state through our Building on Leadership Development in Louisiana (LA BOLD) partnership yielded impressive results over the multi-year partnership period. From the 2017-18 school year to the 2021-22 school year, the percentage of teachers rated as effective or above increased from 75% to 90%. In addition, retention of teachers who were rated as effective or above increased from 80% to 96% from 2017-18 to 2021-22. For the 2021-22 school year, 93% of schools saw improvement in ELA, math, social studies, and/or science.

following up with coaching on site, this initiative is helping school leaders to support improvements in instruction

across the state. This innovative state-level strategy provides a powerful model for other states.