



BOOKEND

Winona Middle School

WINONA, TEXAS

Winona Middle School in Winona Independent School District has undergone a culture shift, from teachers working in silos to teachers collaborating in a professional learning community led by teacher leaders from within the school. Winona Middle School initially partnered with NIET on school improvement work and has continued to refine their use of best practices. These practices

include weekly professional learning meetings using the NIET *Five Steps for Effective Learning*, shared leadership through an instructional leadership team, and ongoing coaching and feedback for teachers.

Principal Johnny Walker and his leadership team have focused on building teachers' instructional capacity, providing time for

collaboration and professional learning, and using data to identify needs — all while keeping student success at the forefront. As a result of their focus, Winona Middle School improved its state letter grade from an “F” in 2019 to a “B” in 2022. Based on student data, school leaders are seeing further growth in student achievement that reflects a continued positive trajectory. ●