Illinois State Board of Education Approved Lead Partner Organization:

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Abstract

Target Audience

Scholastic Achievement Partners (SAP) is a team of the country's top leadership and instructional specialists working shoulder-to-shoulder with educators to:

- Develop great leaders
- Foster effective teaching, and
- Transform school performance.

Evidence of Effectiveness

SAP focuses on instructional excellence as the driver of student success. Case studies throughout the nation, such as Yakima School District (WA), La Quinta High School (CA), Cabell County School District (WV), Labadieville Primary School (LA), cite evidence of effectiveness and can be found at:

http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/scholastic-achievement-partners/#case-studies-section

Pre-intervention / Needs Assessment

The purpose of the Needs Assessment conducted by SAP is to bring administrators and teachers together as a team to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the school and make decisions on how to bring about needed improvements in the classroom and in the school as a whole. Information is gathered through a series of classroom observations, interviews, and surveys, resulting in a concise report. The Needs Assessment typically makes use of the following tools:

- System for Effective Instruction (SEI) Rubric
- Collaborative Instructional Review
- WE Surveys
- Data Analysis Report

Building on the information gathered in the Needs Assessment, we collaborate with the leadership team to prioritize needs, develop an action plan, and determine how to measure our efforts. All of this comes together in the Strategic Plan, which serves as a road map for your school improvement initiative.

General Description of Supports Provided

Provide a description of the services and supports provided. You are encouraged, but not required. to break out your supports into the following areas. If they do not seem helpful or appropriate for your organization, please feel free to delete them.

Instructional reform, including assessment, curriculum and instruction

SAP provides professional learning training for teachers. Courses include "Creating a Rigorous and Relevant Learning Environment," "Applying Rigorous and Relevant Instructional Strategies," "Unpacking and Designing Next Generation Assessments," "Using Data to Inform Instruction," and "Collaborating for Continuous Professional Learning."

Additional training equips district and school administrators with the skills necessary to understand and use tools and resources associated with the International Center's Collaborative Instructional Review (CIR). The CIR is a unique and innovative approach to improving teacher effectiveness through professional dialogue, preparation for classroom instruction, and developing a common vocabulary and understanding of rigorous and relevant instruction. SAP consultants will go into classrooms with district and school administrators to look for rigor, relevance and learner engagement all disguised as interdisciplinary instruction. The CIR assists with improving teacher effectiveness through:

- Developing and planning rigorous curriculum, units of study, and lessons;
- Delivering highly rigorous and relevant lessons;
- Utilizing authentic assessments designed to measure student application of learning; and
- Engaging instructional staff in professional dialogue to promote teacher effectiveness and professional learning communities

Instructional and Leadership Coaching

Instructional Coaching

Results-oriented and holistic in approach, SAP's job-embedded instructional coaches support teachers in meeting the needs of every student by building their skills in learner engagement, academic rigor, and real world relevance. Coaches work with teachers during the regular school day in their classrooms and during planning periods to raise student achievement.

Our comprehensive and customizable instructional coaching model assists teachers in transforming instruction by using the Rigor / Relevance Framework to plan curriculum, deliver instruction, and monitor progress. Teachers learn differentiation approaches and understand how to extend rigor and adjust instruction based upon assessment. The model is built upon the following cornerstones:

- Focus on Student Achievement: The coach works closely with the leadership team to ensure commitment at all levels to this goal.

- Trusting Relationships: The instructional coach builds trust and supports professional growth by providing positive reinforcement, opening lines of communication, and creating a caring relationship with teachers.
- Professional Learning Communities: Educators collaborate around the shared goal of increasing student achievement. The reflective dialogue also helps the coach identify areas that might require additional support.

Leadership Coaching

Leadership coaching supports and enhances the skill-sets of instructional leaders, helping them to help teachers achieve such objectives as the following:

- Understand and apply the Rigor/Relevance Framework as a "common language" for curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- Enhance their repertoire of research vetted effective instructional strategies for addressing the needs of all students
- Use research and data to identify and understand high-priority learning standards
- Value and use "next generation" assessments to guide and differentiate instruction
- Embed literacy in all subjects
- Identify and use supportive behaviors that build positive teacher-student relationships
- Understand and apply strategies that cultivate learner engagement
- Leverage technology and other proven strategies

Program Management / Progress Monitoring and Data Driven Decision Making

Professional learning courses at all levels—using systemwide data to support decision making for organizational leaders, facilitating data-driven decision making for instructional leaders and using data to inform instruction for teachers—support educators as they learn progress monitoring and data driven decision making.

Community and Family Engagement

We partner with school leaders to "make the classroom bigger" through a series of initiatives that enable all stakeholders to contribute to the success of students. These services include:

- Building Partnerships for Student Success
- Creating Parent Academies
- Fostering Parent Involvement in Achieving Higher Standards

As part of the Needs Assessment process, we also engage family and communities in the WE Survey process by using the WE Support™ Community Survey. This tool measures community perceptions of the school experience as well as the community's expectations of the school system.

School Climate and Culture

Organizational Leadership involves a mentality, structure, focus, and commitment to create the environment in which learning and time for learning are maximized. Knowing that culture trumps strategy, we begin every partnership with a course for organizational leadership entitled, "Creating a Culture of High Academic Expectations" in which participants will learn about the

benefits of a systems approach to improve student achievement. Additionally, participants are enabled to:

- Understand how high performing schools have transformed learning
- Develop the leadership capacities to transform learning
- Create the structures, systems, and tools to lead and support the change process
- Review and assess existing student work and data
- Reflect on school history to build on strengths
- Identify challenges and resources to lead change

Executive coaching reinforces this learning throughout the partnership.

Strategies for Post-grant Sustainability

Our entire mission as a Lead Partner is to build internal capacity; therefore, all professional learning and coaching is implemented with that goal. Additionally, we enhance the instructional impact of our courses and in-person coaching with an online capacity building system called Nextpert.

Nextpert provides tools and resources that support teachers in adapting to the instructional changes driven by new teacher evaluations, the Common Core and Next Generation Assessments, including:

- Lesson and Assessment Builders that guide teachers through creating instruction that supports the Common Core while also increasing their capacity to create them independently
- A trusted library of carefully selected lessons and assessment items that teachers can customize and personalize for their specific needs
- Powerful tools that not only help increase the quality of lessons and assessments but show teachers why the changes are important

Other Organizational Hallmarks

Scholastic Achievement Partners brings together the literacy, mathematics, and leadership expertise of three respected organizations —*Scholastic*, *Math Solutions*, and the *International Center for Leadership in Education*— to provide unmatched support to districts, schools, and teachers in all 50 states.

Scholastic
For over 90 years, the nation's leader in raising reading achievement

Math Solutions
For 30 years, the country's leading organization committed to improving mathematics instruction

International Center for Leadership in Education
For over 20 years, dedicated to facilitating a system-wide focus on student achievement through leadership and instructional effectiveness

Additional Resources

Scholastic Achievement Partners Research Foundation Paper:
http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/scholastic-achievement-partners/downloads/SAP_Research_Foundation_Paper.pdf