

Scientifically Rigorous Study Links Leadership Program to Improved Student Learning

Pennsylvania Schools Led by NISL-Trained Principals Surpass Other Schools in Student Achievement

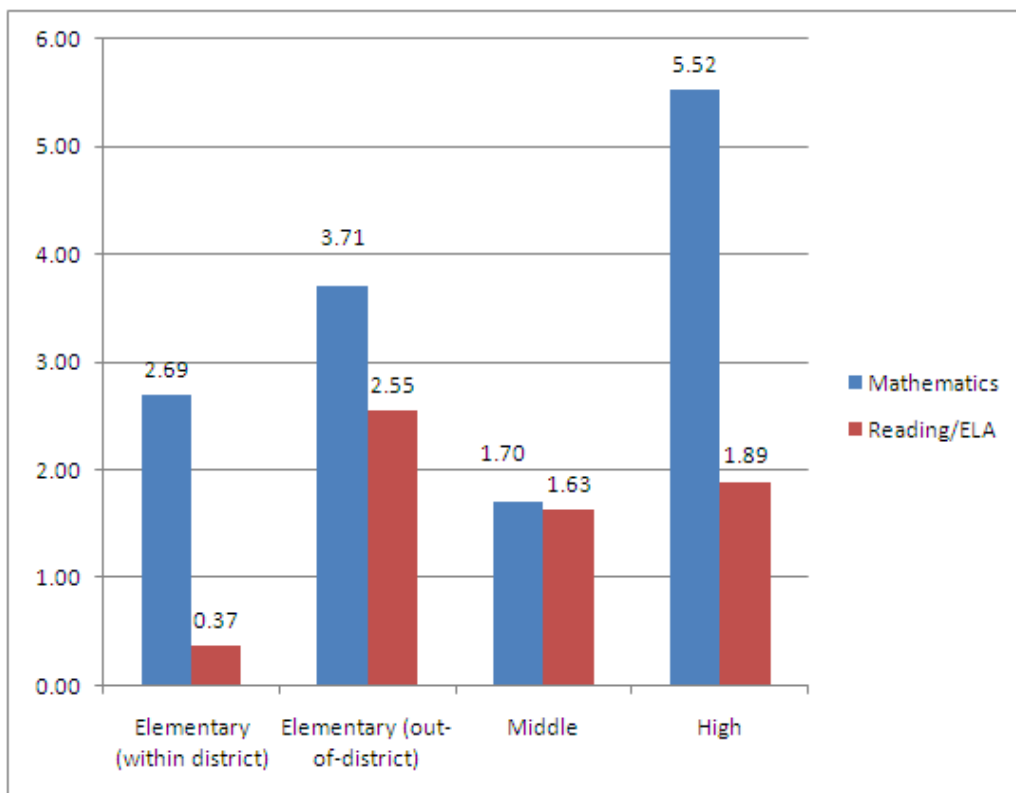
The Effect of the National Institute for School Leadership's Executive Development Program on School Performance Trends in Pennsylvania

In 2010, Old Dominion University released "The Effect of the National Institute for School Leadership's Executive Development Program on School Performance Trends in Pennsylvania." A quasi-experimental study conducted by Dr. John Nunnery and colleagues, this report assesses the effect of NISL's Executive Development Program in 99 Pennsylvania schools. The Executive Development Program provides job-embedded training for principals at all stages of their careers. Researchers studied how schools led by NISL-trained principals compared to other schools with similar school performance and demographic profiles in mathematics and reading/English language arts across a three-year period from 2005-06 to 2008-09. The proportion of tested students in NISL and comparison schools that are economically disadvantaged ranged from 15.82% to 27.90%. To read the full report, visit <http://www.nisl.net/pa-old-dominion-study-mar10.pdf>

"There are no good schools without good principals. It simply does not happen."

*- U.S. Secretary of Education
Arne Duncan*

Key Findings



**NISL Effects: 2009
Differences in
Percentages of Students
Achieving Proficiency
Relative to Comparison
(Control) Schools.**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

- **Schools led by NISL-trained principals outperform other schools in Pennsylvania.** Researchers found that the NISL schools had significantly higher proficiency rates in both mathematics and reading/English language arts. For the 2008-09 school year:

Of the 68 NISL **elementary schools**: the percentage of students achieving proficiency averaged **2.69** and **3.71** percentage points in mathematics, and **0.37** and **2.55** percentage points in reading/English language arts, above comparison schools.

Estimated: 679 more students proficient at NISL schools.

Of the 19 NISL **middle schools**: the percentage of students achieving proficiency averaged **1.70** and **1.63** percentage points above comparison students in mathematics and reading/English language arts, respectively.

Estimated: 249 more students proficient at NISL schools.

Of the 12 NISL **high schools**: the percentage of students achieving proficiency averaged **5.52** and **1.89** percentage points above comparison students in mathematics and reading/English language arts, respectively.

Estimated: 180 more students proficient at NISL schools.

- **Program effects tend to accelerate over time.** Increases in student proficiency were greater in the final year of the analysis. Since half of the principals completed the program in 2007-08 and the other half not until 2008-09, the impact on student achievement is likely to be even greater in subsequent years.

About NISL in Pennsylvania

To date, more than 1,500 principals have completed the program in Pennsylvania. This study looked at the first 99 principals to complete the program. NISL is a critical component of Pennsylvania's Inspired Leadership Program, which is a statewide, standards-based continuing education program for school and system leaders.

About NISL's Executive Development Program

To date, more than 4,500 school leaders have completed NISL's Executive Development Program in 14 states. Through online and face-to-face instruction over a 12- to 18-month period, the program emphasizes the role of principals as strategic thinkers, instructional leaders, and creators of a just, fair, and caring culture in which all students meet high standards. Its primary goal is to ensure that the participating school leaders have the knowledge, skills, and tools to be turnaround artists in low-performing schools or to be able to lead good schools to great performance. Statewide programs are currently in place in **Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi** and **Pennsylvania**. District programs are currently in place in **New Hampshire, Maryland, Texas, Colorado** and **Missouri**. For more information about NISL, visit <http://www.nisl.net/about/>.