



## School Leaders Network in New York City

### National Program Has Strong Local Presence

Since 2006, over 160 K-12 principals, or nearly 10% of all of the principals in New York City have participated in **School Leaders Network (SLN) programming**. With funding and support for SLN in New York City from Council of School Administrators and Supervisors, Executive Leadership Institute and The Booth Ferris Foundation, SLN Principals in Brooklyn, Queens and The Bronx have impacted over 118,000 students, raising student achievement, graduation rates and school climate and culture across the city.

SLN Principals work together in Networks of 12-15 principals, led by a SLN-trained Facilitator using SLN's research-based inquiry model, grounded in adult learning theory, action research and leadership best practices. Through a collaborative and structured process, SLN develops K-12 school principals into highly effective instructional leaders who are empowered to transform the culture and instruction in their schools and increase student achievement.

### SLN Principals Recognized for Leadership and School Excellence

New York City SLN Principals and alumni count among them some very significant recognition at the city, state and national level. A sampling of the honors received:

- New York State High Achieving Gap Closing Schools, 2006–2010
- U.S News and World Report Top High Schools in the United States, Gold, Silver and Bronze, 2007–2010
- Well Developed Rating
- Kaplan Distinguished Principal
- CSA Leadership Award
- Cahn Fellows, Cohorts 2006–2011
- New York City College Partnership Elementary School
- Blackboard Award

## SLN Principals' NYC 2010 Progress Report\*

### Student Achievement

- Due to testing changes in New York City, proficiency levels across grades 3–8 dropped significantly in 2010. Citywide ELA proficiency dropped from 69% to 42% and math proficiency dropped from 82% to 54%. While K-8 SLN schools on average dropped in ELA and math proficiency, the average loss in SLN-led schools was smaller than the city average.
- **70% of K-8 SLN schools received an A or B** on the 2010 New York City Progress Report.
- SLN high schools had **higher weighted math Regents pass rates than 84% of peer schools**. SLN high schools also had **higher weighted English Regents pass rates than 65% of peer schools**.

### Graduation Rate

- SLN-led high schools **outperformed a majority of peer schools in 4-year graduation rate on average**.

### Culture Indicators

- **K-8 SLN schools had higher scores than the city average across all culture indicators** - expectations, communication, engagement, and safety.
- On average, **SLN high schools outperformed peer schools** across all culture indicators in 2010. These include expectations, communication, engagement, and safety.

## SLN Principals in New York City on the SLN Program

"Through the workshops, protocols, support from my colleagues in SLN, and sage advice from Facilitators, I was able to change the culture of my school from a 'this is good enough' to 'what more can we do' attitude."

"I have seen the amount of supervision go down significantly. I have seen the graduation rates go up for my cohort groups. I have seen staff taking a more active leadership and ownership role in their role as teachers."

"As a Cahn Fellow, I studied distributed leadership, but SLN helped me realize this goal."

"I established a cohesive school community, created inquiry teams - released responsibilities to teacher leaders - better at using school in-house expertise."

"This year we had school wide inquiry where all departments focused on curriculum, aligned assessment, implemented benchmark assessments, and closely monitored scholar progress. I was able to trust in several staff members and build capacity in areas that it was lacking."

"My group members held me accountable for implementing my plan and provided feedback when I needed assistance. The group dynamic made me feel supported."

"SLN provided me with an opportunity to reflect on my practices and make adjustments when necessary. I was able to realize the root causes of the barriers to mobilizing all members in my school community."

\*Analysis of New York City Progress Report 2010 conducted by Adam Kishel and Brigid Fallon, New Leaders for New Schools. Photographs taken at SLN-led schools, In-Tech Academy and Banana Kelly High School, Bronx, New York.