

**Other Resources:**  
**How Teachers Working Collaboratively with All Stakeholders  
Can Make True Systemic Change**

For more information, stories, and videos, please visit [www.neaprioritieschools.org](http://www.neaprioritieschools.org)



**[Alabama: Local News Spotlights Mobile School Gains](#)**

Fox 10TV, the Fox affiliate for Mobile, AL, highlighted in January the impressive turnaround experienced by Mobile County schools, including Mae Eanes Middle School and Ella Grant Elementary. Both schools had previously experienced state takeovers, but are now making

Adequate Yearly Progress thanks to a focus on collaboration, professional development, and data-driven decisions.

**[California: Bringing Hope, Resources, Results to Lower-Performing Schools](#)**

A landmark, teacher-sponsored law in California providing extra funding for proven reforms at hundreds of the state's schools of greatest need is bringing academic gains after its first full year of funding, an early analysis of school performance data shows.



**[Colorado: Denver's Math and Science Leadership Academy: Everyone a Learner, Teacher, Leader](#)**

The Math and Science Leadership Academy is a union-designed, teacher-led public school within the Denver Public School System. The school's teachers use collaborative planning time to meet with their peers, analyze data and design instruction that meets student needs. The school is designed to attract and retain the

most accomplished teachers in the field, and so far it's working. The school fielded some 30 applications for each position.

**[Connecticut: Connecticut Program Puts Teachers in Charge](#)**

"I feel like we've made huge progress this year," said Ellen Tillman, a sixth-grade teacher in Bridgeport. "There is more ownership by the staff to take on projects, to feel empowered when it comes to issues in the classroom. The principal and assistant principal are conferring more with teachers."

### [Hawaii: Union, State Officials Plan Collaboration for Hawaiian Priority Schools](#)

"Accountability has a lot to do with mentoring and training teachers if they are having difficulty in the classroom. Teaching is a skill. We should help them to grow, to succeed," Okabe said....Unlike Mainland school districts... Hawai'i doesn't have the advantage of hiring and recruiting from across state lines."We don't have that luxury here, so we must focus on how do we raise up every single teacher's or principal's level of performance to the place we know our children deserve," Nozoe said.



### [Indiana: Union and Managers Work Together for Kids in Evansville, IN](#)

"Most change is top-down. This works in reverse," says professional development coach Deb Hartz, describing how the union and administrators are working together.

### [New York: Breaking Down the Barriers to College](#)

Fourth grader Marisa Thomas is only nine years old, but she already knows she wants to go to college. Thanks to Say Yes to Education, a community-wide effort in Syracuse, NY. The district-wide effort, launched in 2007 unites the efforts of teacher unions, civic leaders, local businesses and private foundations, to increase the graduation rates and post secondary education of the students who attend the city's public schools.

### [Washington: Seattle Program aims to give schools a flying start](#)

A joint effort of the district and the teachers union, "Flight Schools" is meant to imply that the schools are on their way up — taking flight. In Seattle, an expanding program at South End schools sends teachers and other staff members to students' homes. The visits are part of a district program that targets two sets of high-needs schools to get extra staff training, special curriculum and resources.