



III. WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE TRENCHES: TWO DISTRICTS ON THE CUTTING EDGE

INTENSIVE PARTNERSHIP FACTSHEET: PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This document, from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is one of four describing each of their “Intensive Partnership” sites, which they define as places where “district and school leaders will implement bold reform plans over the next several years to better recruit, retain, and reward effective teachers and ensure that the highest need students are taught by the most effective teachers.” This factsheet describes the plans and accomplishments of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, including its “collaborative relationship with the teachers union, the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers. Together, they have made progress on issues including curriculum design, staffing for new schools, and a new teacher evaluation system called RISE (Research-Based Inclusive System of Evaluation). They are now working to develop a measure of teacher effectiveness, or a Value-Added Measure (VAM), to anchor a new compensation plan that would reward teachers for improvements in student achievement.”

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT EMPOWERING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS IN THE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This Q&A from the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, produced in advance of the final award announcement, explains what the proposal does and how it works from a teacher’s point of view.

INTENSIVE PARTNERSHIP FACTSHEET: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This Gates Foundation factsheet describes the Hillsborough proposal, including a plan to “redesign the teacher evaluation system (so at least 40 percent is based on student achievement, compared with seven percent today), incorporating teams of highly trained teacher-evaluators, and linking evaluation to mentoring and professional development.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: INTENSIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO EMPOWER EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

This overview, from Hillsborough County’s proposal, describes the essential elements of their plan to ensure that “every classroom has a highly effective teacher” and “increase the share of students graduating college ready to 60 percent.”

