

THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

Inverness Research Associates

April 2001

INVERNESS RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

INVERNESS RESEARCH -

*WE EVALUATE MANY DIFFERENT FEDERAL, STATE AND
PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATIONAL
IMPROVEMENT...*

OUR PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORK OF THE NWP...

- *INDEPENDENT EVALUATORS*
- *SIX YEARS OF STUDY*

THE TOP TEN LIST

*TEN EVALUATION FINDINGS THAT
ILLUMINATE THE KEY
CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL
WRITING PROJECT*

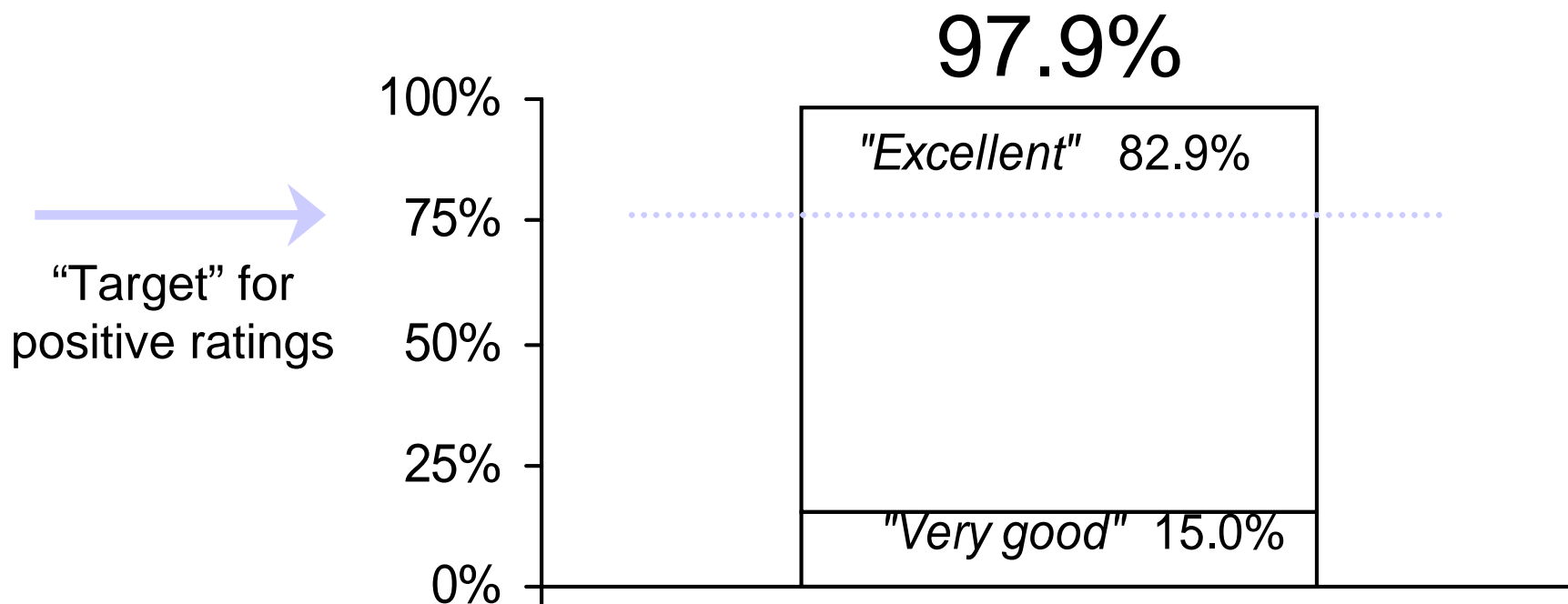
Inverness Research Associates

April 2001

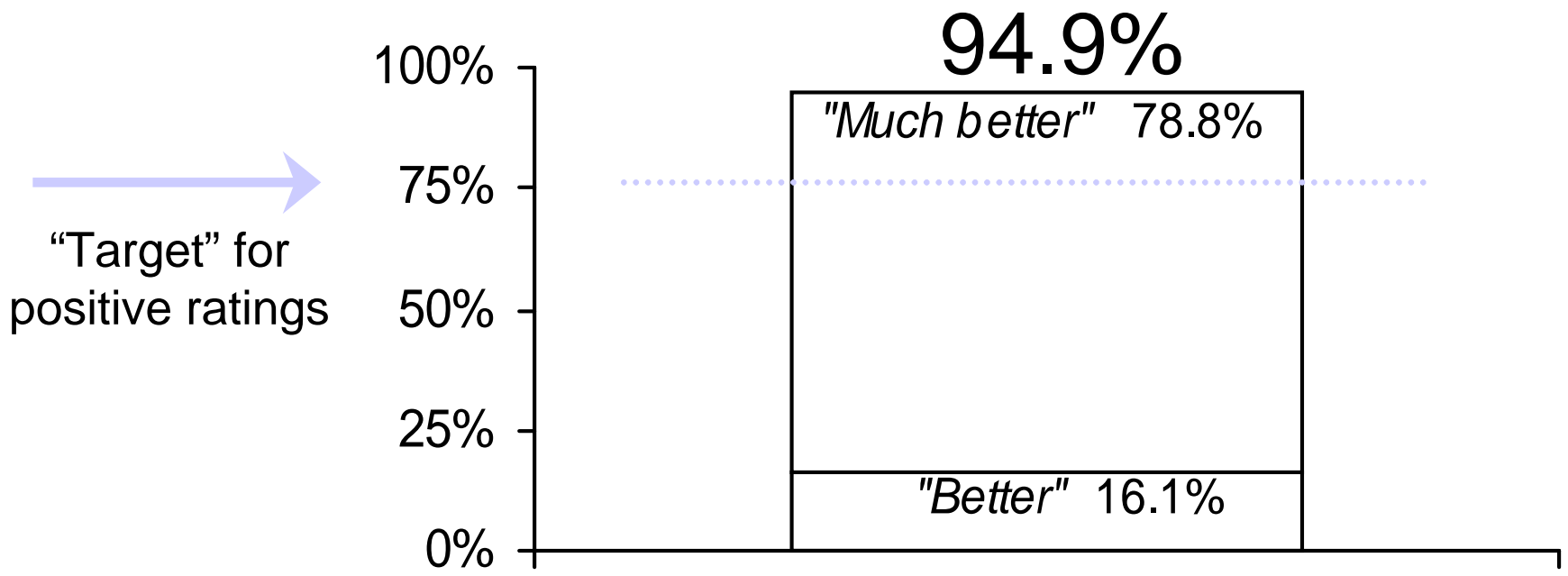
NUMBER 10

*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
DOES HIGH QUALITY WORK THAT
TEACHERS VALUE*

***“The overall quality
of the NWP invitational institute
is excellent or very good”***



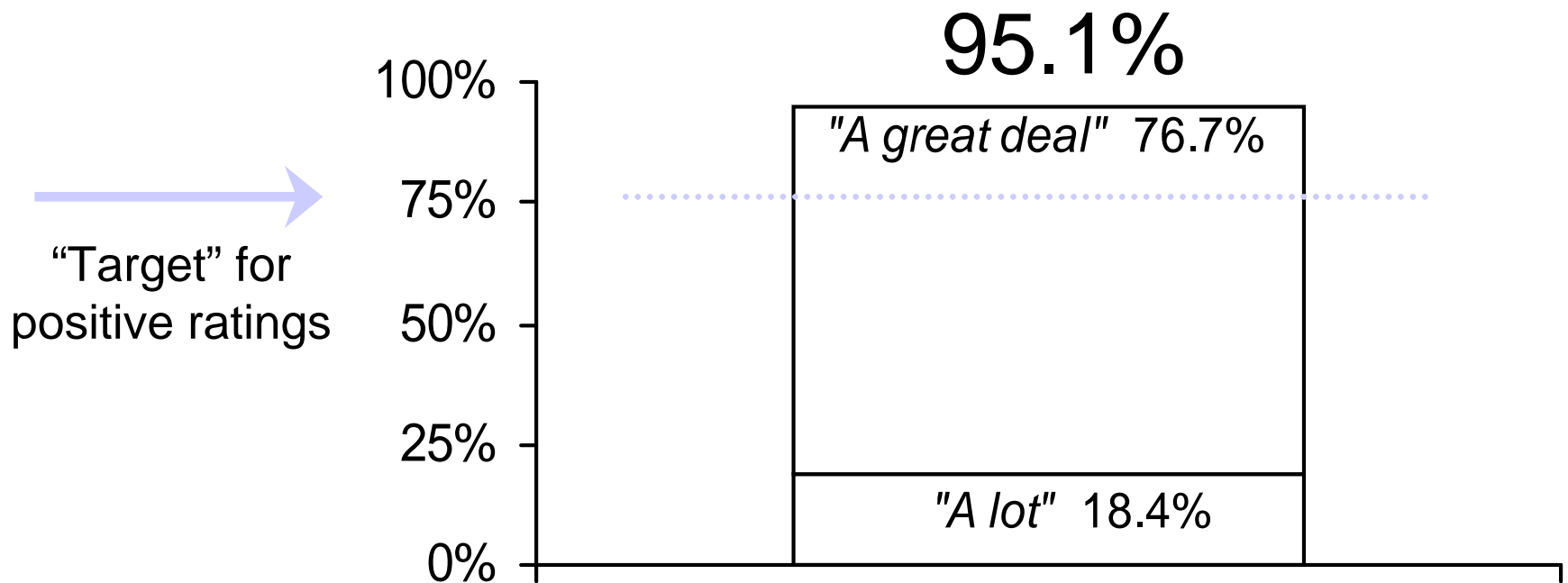
“The quality of the NWP invitational institute is much better or better than other professional development”



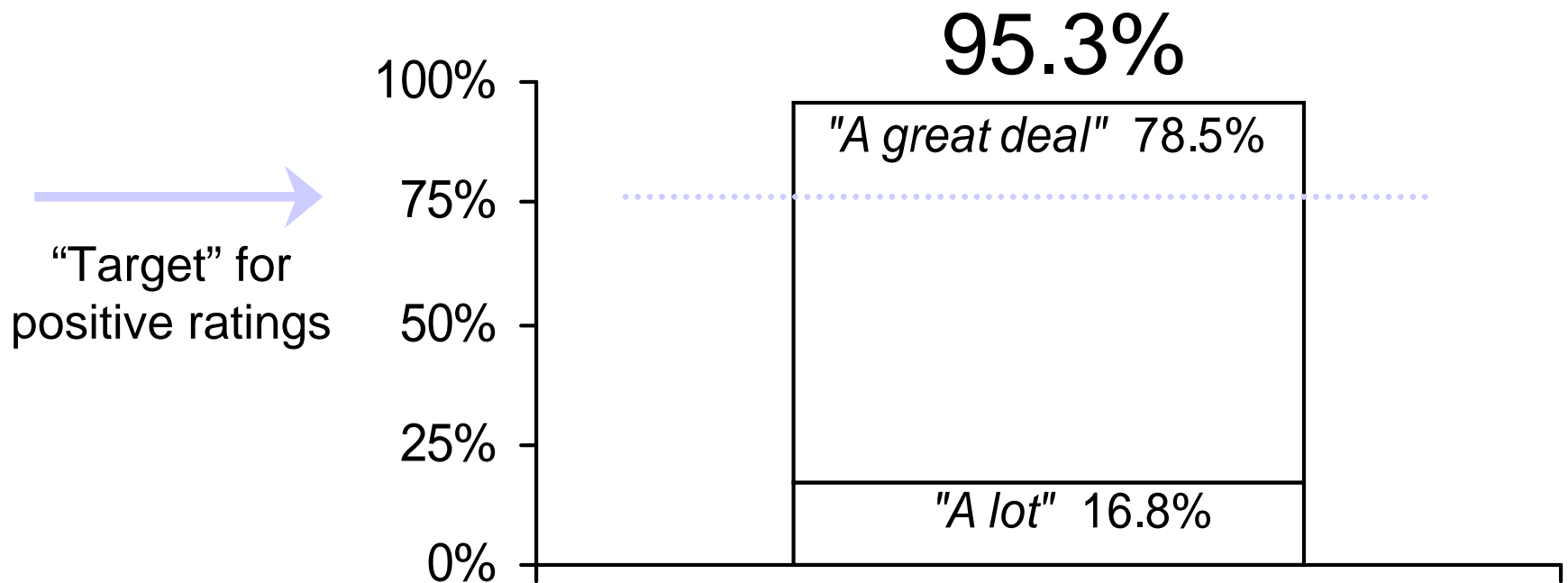
NUMBER 9

*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
HELPS TEACHERS IMPROVE THEIR
TEACHING OF WRITING*

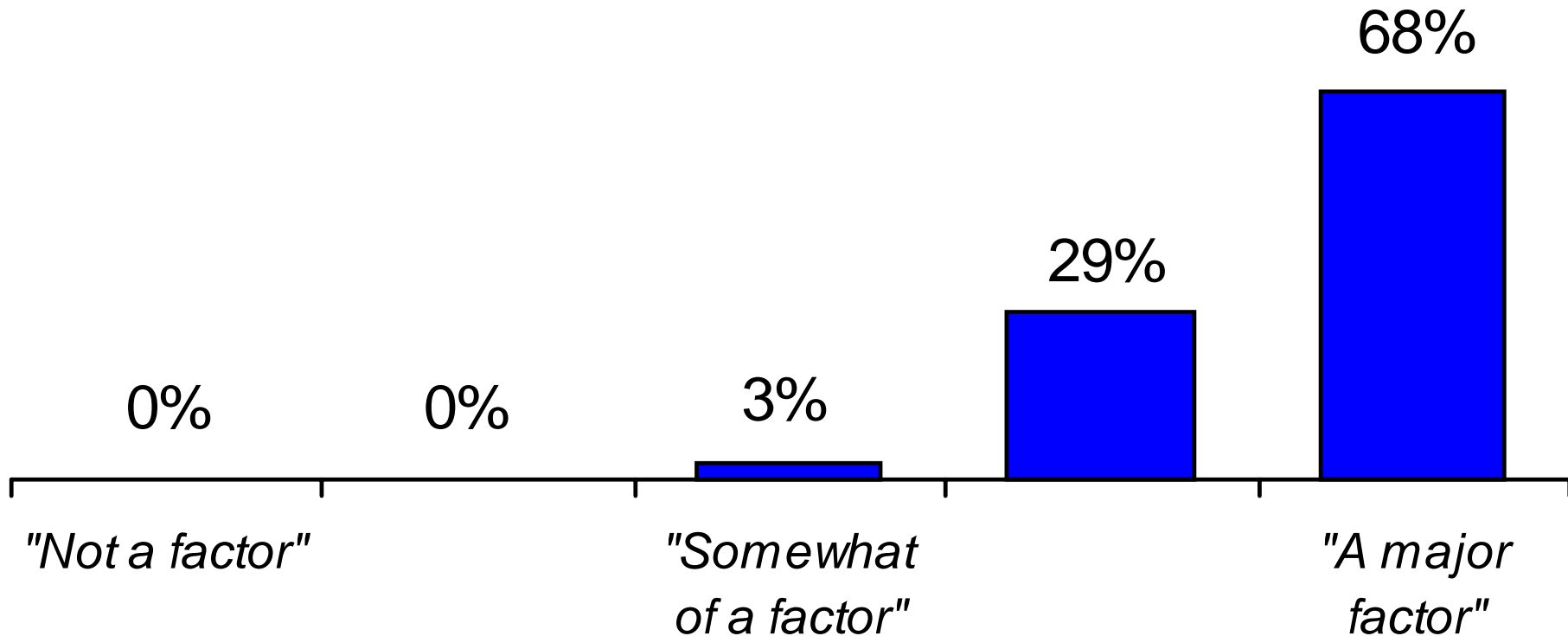
***“The institute contributed
to my understanding of
how to teach writing effectively”***



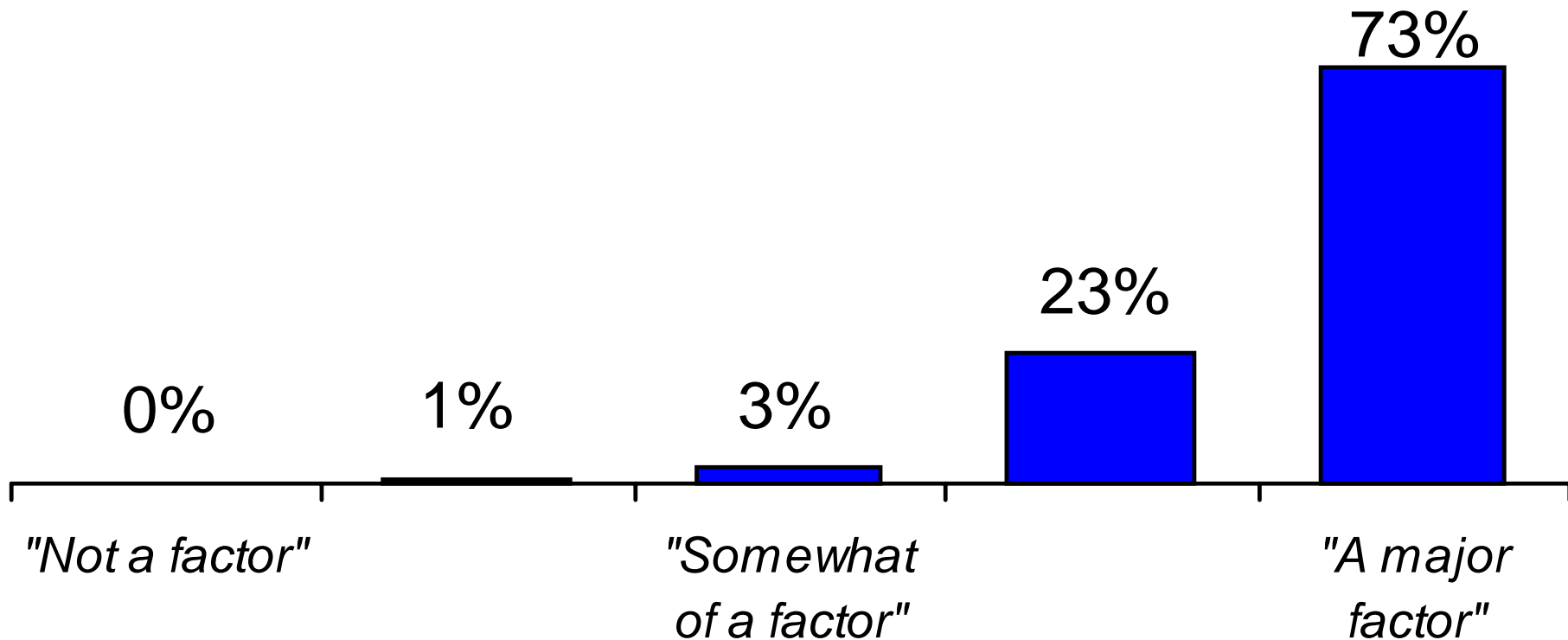
***“I will be able to use and apply
what I learned at the institute
to my own classroom and students”***



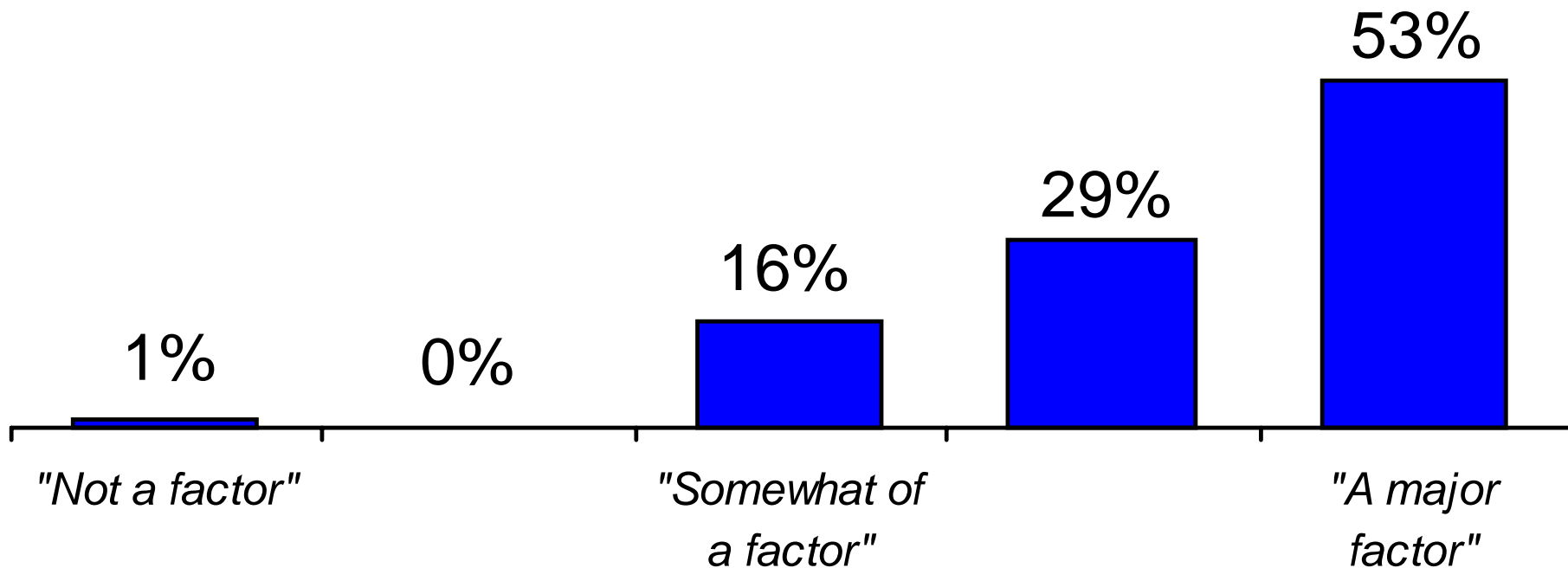
***Writing Project as a factor and influence
on teachers' classroom goals***



***Writing Project as a factor and influence
on teachers' teaching practices***



***Writing Project as a factor and influence
on teachers' assessment practices***



THE FOCUS ON STANDARDS PROJECT

*I have gained a deeper understanding of district,
state and national writing standards ... 95%*

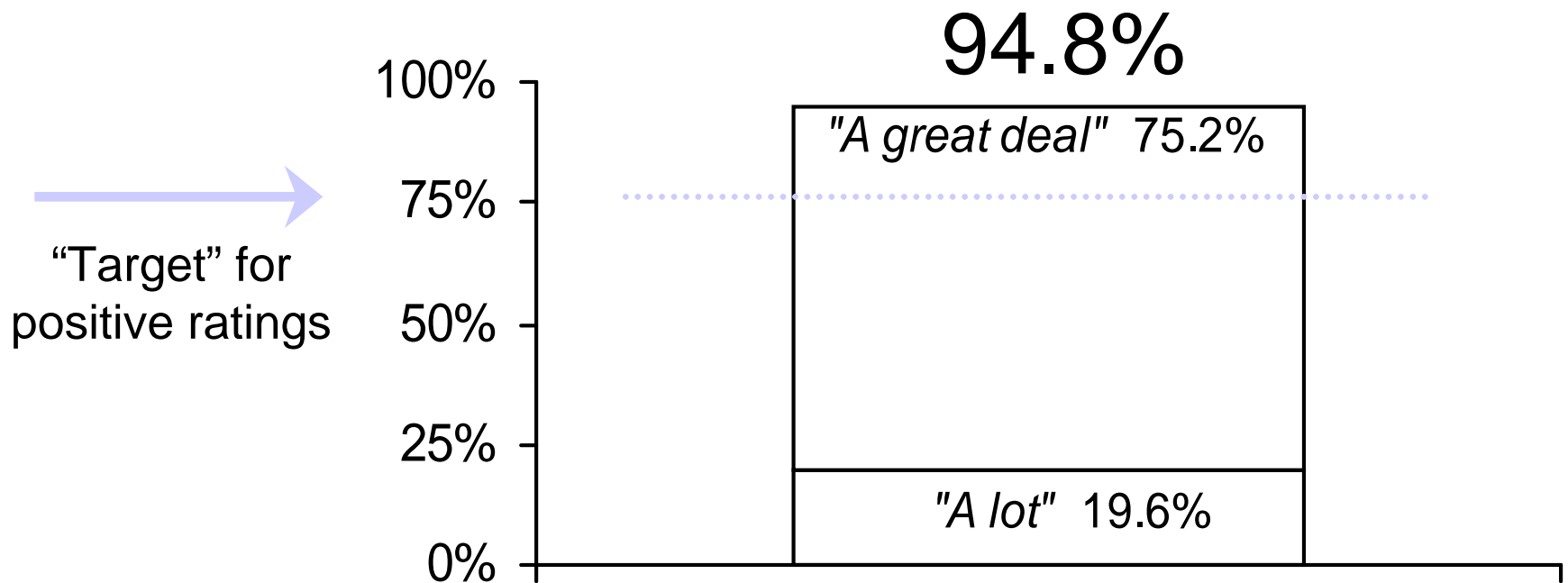
*I am better able to implement standards in my
classroom... 90%*

*I gained knowledge and skill that will help me
teach writing to lower performing students... 84%*

NUMBER 8

*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
HELPS STUDENTS LEARN TO WRITE
BETTER*

***“My experiences at the institute
will translate into
improved writing skills for my students”***



TWENTY YEARS OF RESEARCH

1980 Scriven, Michael. *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: EVALUATION OF THE BAY AREA WRITING PROJECT*. Carnegie Corp., Scriven summarizes a multi-year, multi-dimensional evaluation of the Bay Area and National Writing Projects: "[The Writing Project] appears to be the best large-scale effort to improve composition instruction now in operation in the country and certainly the best on which substantial data are available."



Many studies later...

2001 ACADEMY FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. A three year study of elementary classrooms in NWP sites in five states. A study of teaching strategies and student outcomes in writing now in progress.

RECENT STUDIES OF THE NWP'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF STUDENT WRITING

*Academy for Educational Development (AED) National Evaluation
(1999-2002)*

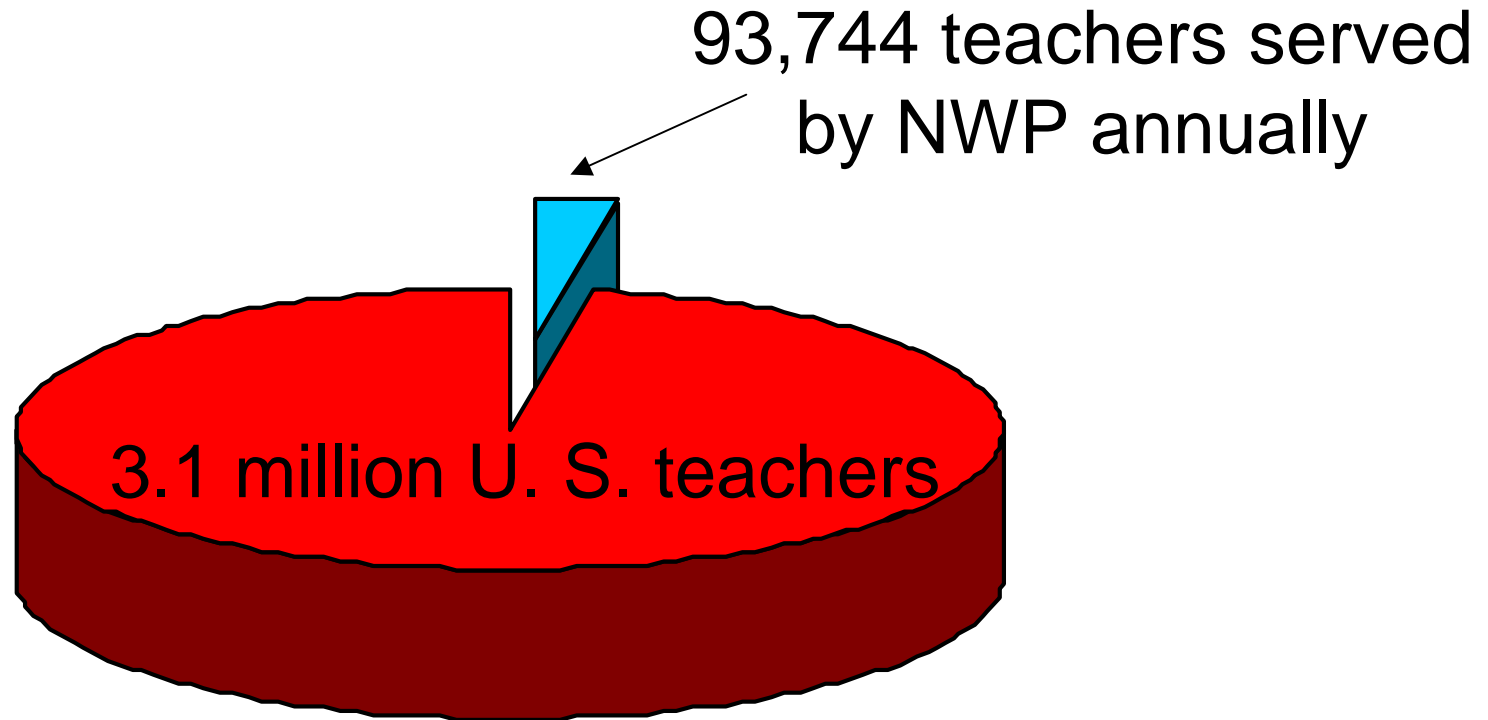
Improving Students' Academic Writing (1999-2001)

Pathway Project for Second Language Learners (1996-2000)

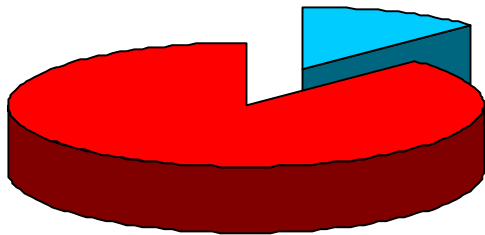
NUMBER 7

*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
SERVES A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF
THE NATION'S TEACHERS*

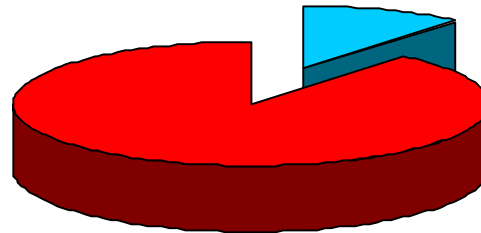
Each year the National Writing Project reaches 1 in 34 American teachers



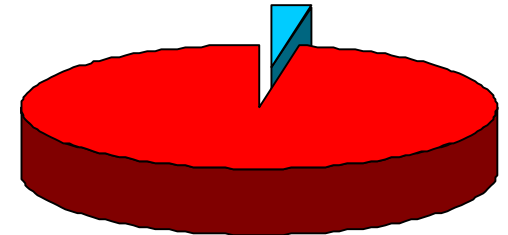
Each year the National Writing Project reaches . . .



1 in 8
High School
Language Arts
teachers



1 in 9
Middle School
Language Arts
teachers



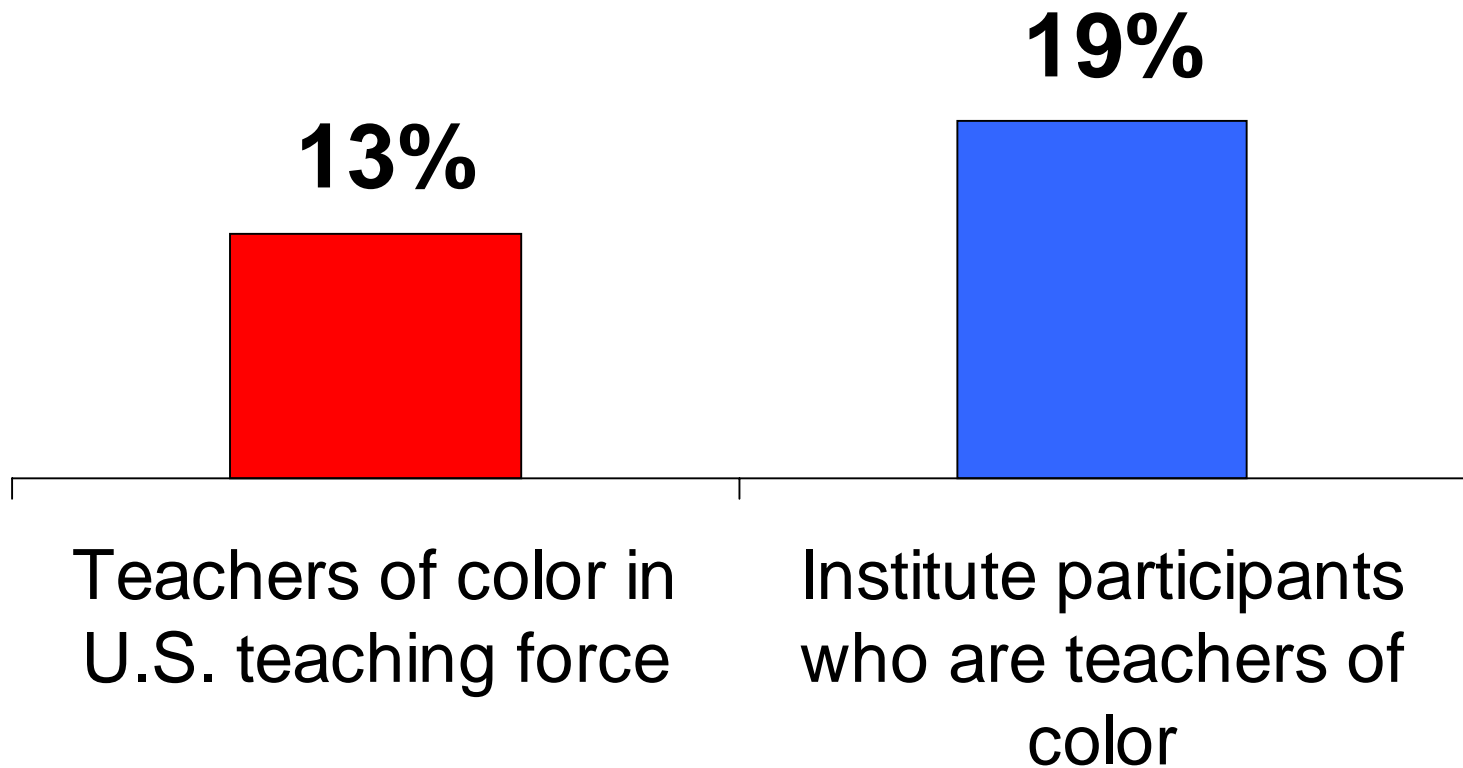
1 in 35
Elementary
school
teachers

Source: Annual survey of NWP sites by Inverness Research Associates, Fall 2000.

NUMBER 6

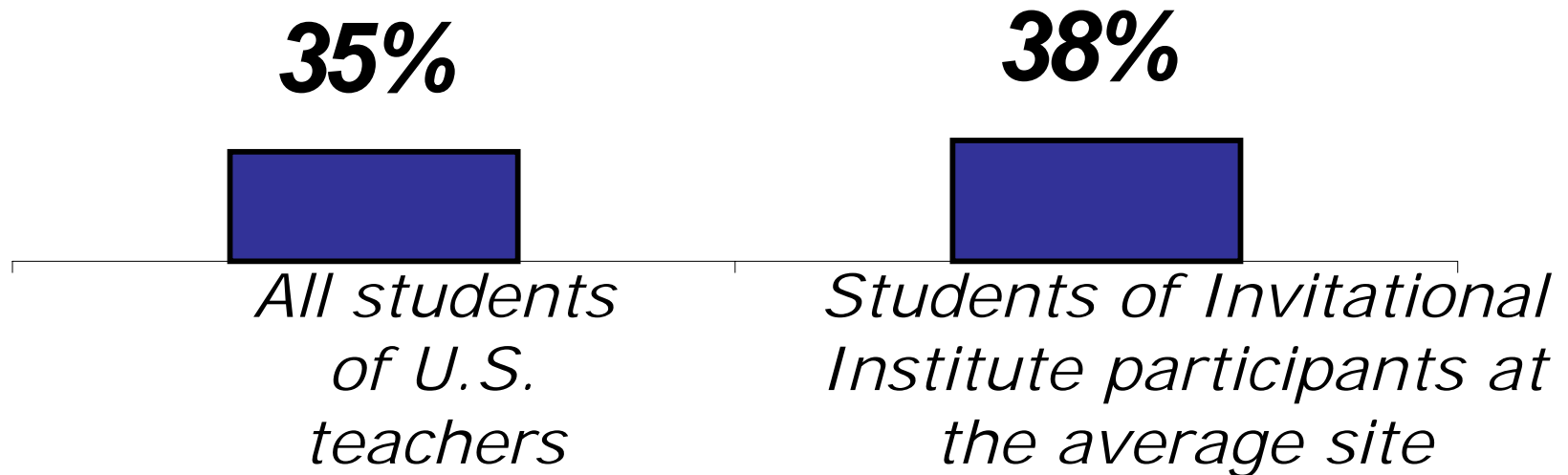
*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
SERVES DIVERSE GROUPS OF
TEACHERS AND STUDENTS*

Participation by teachers of color at Writing Project Invitational Institutes

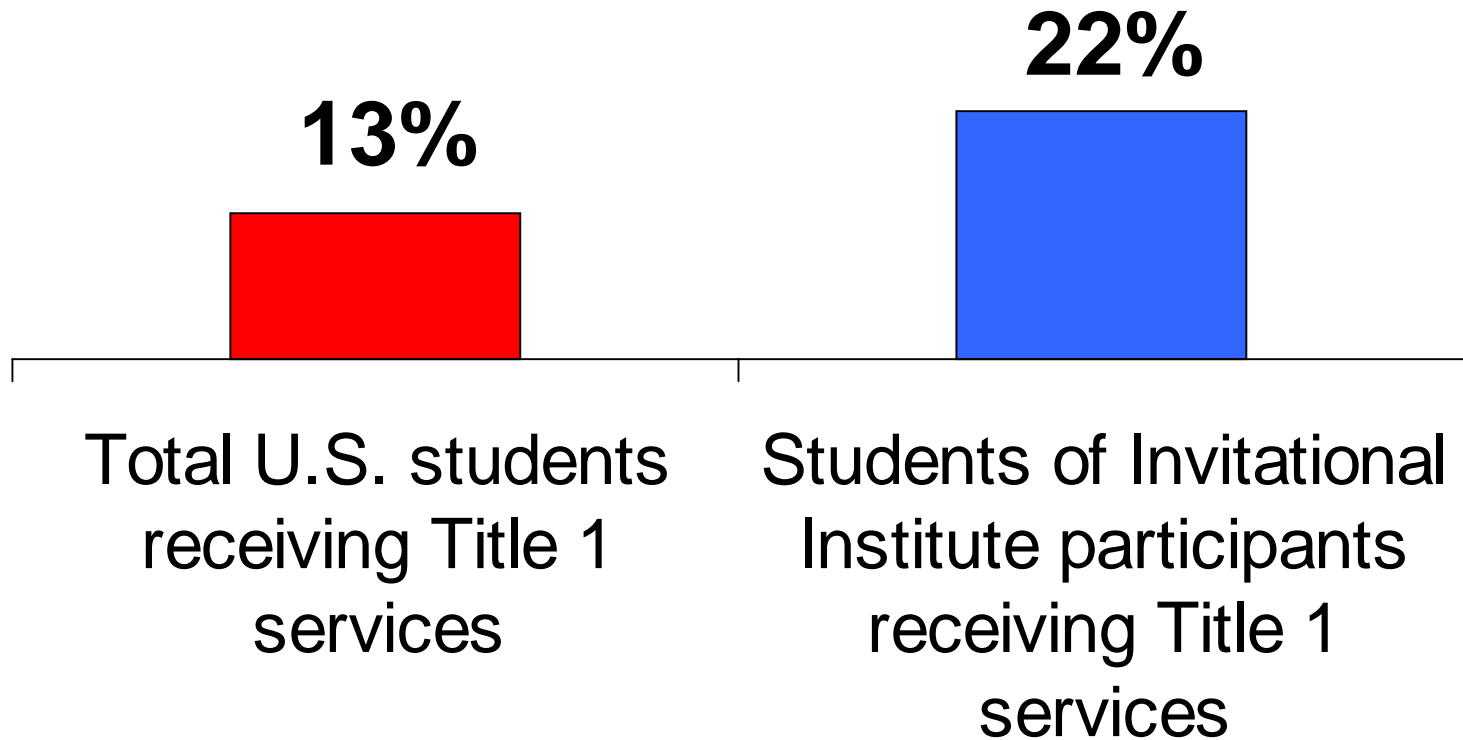


Source: Survey of NWP Invitational Institute participants by Inverness Research Associates, Summer 2000.

Percentage of students of color in teachers' classes



Percentage of Title 1 students in teachers' classes

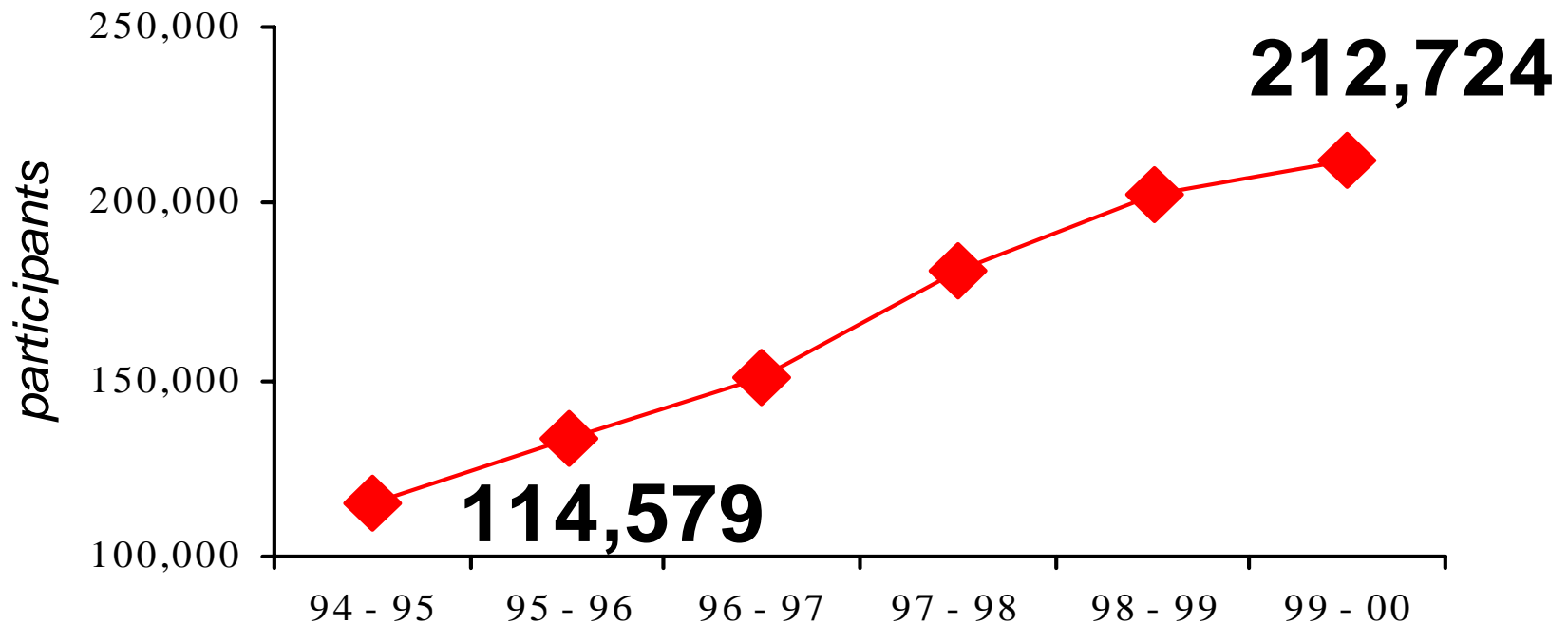


Source: Survey of NWP Invitational Institute participants by Inverness Research Associates, Summer 2000.

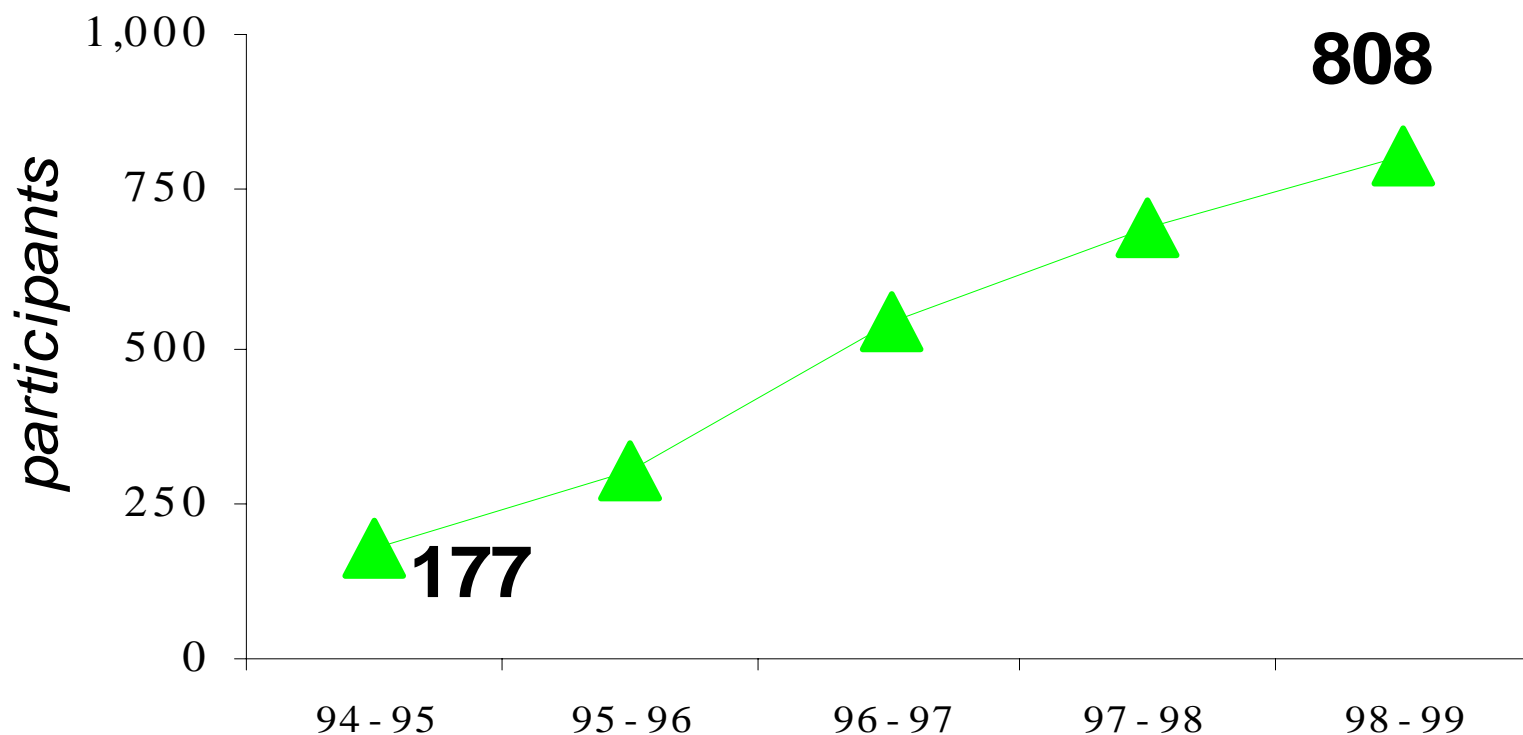
NUMBER 5

*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
GROWS ITSELF STEADILY*

***A PROJECT OF STEADY GROWTH:
86% increase in annual participants in the Writing Project
(1994-2000)***



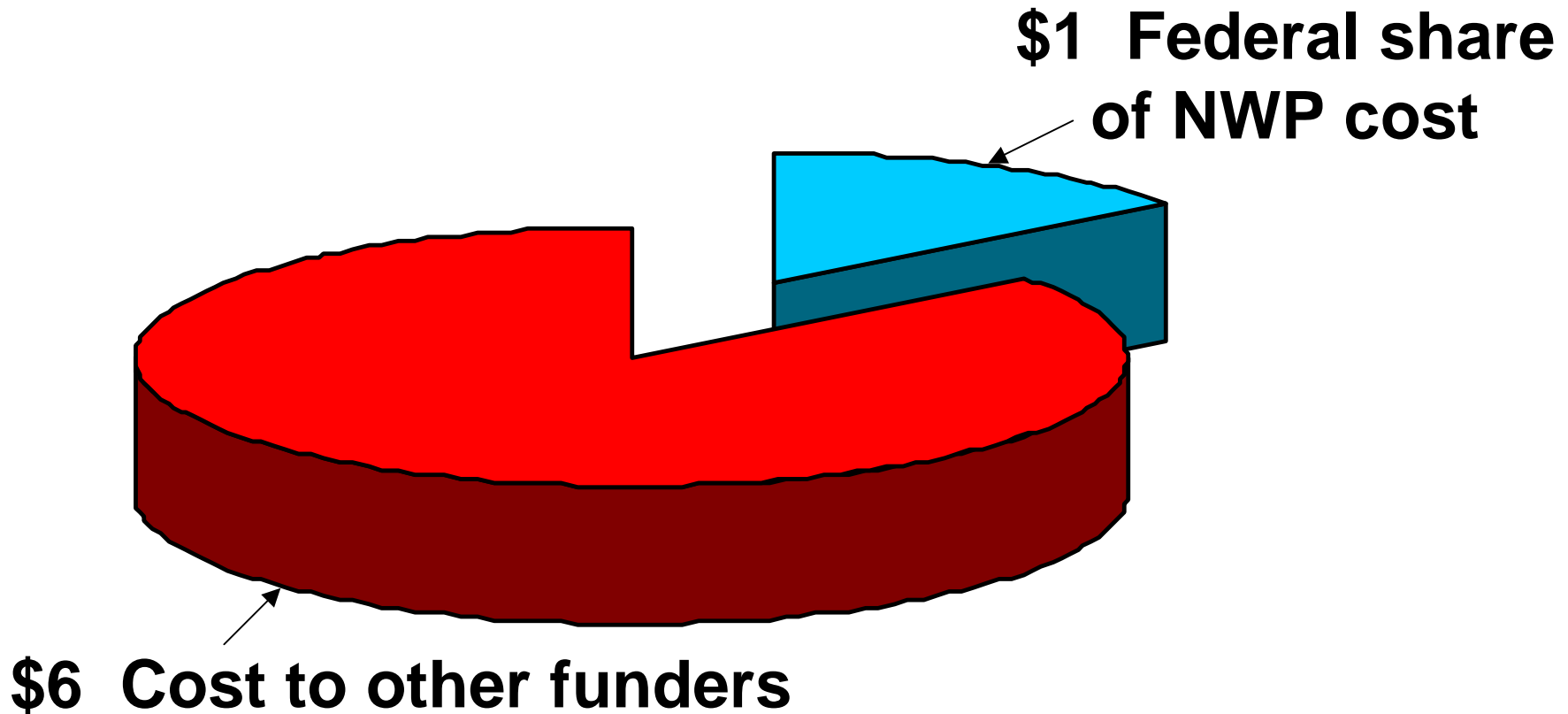
***GROWING LOCAL SITES:
Growth over 5 years
(annual participants at the average beginning NWP site)***



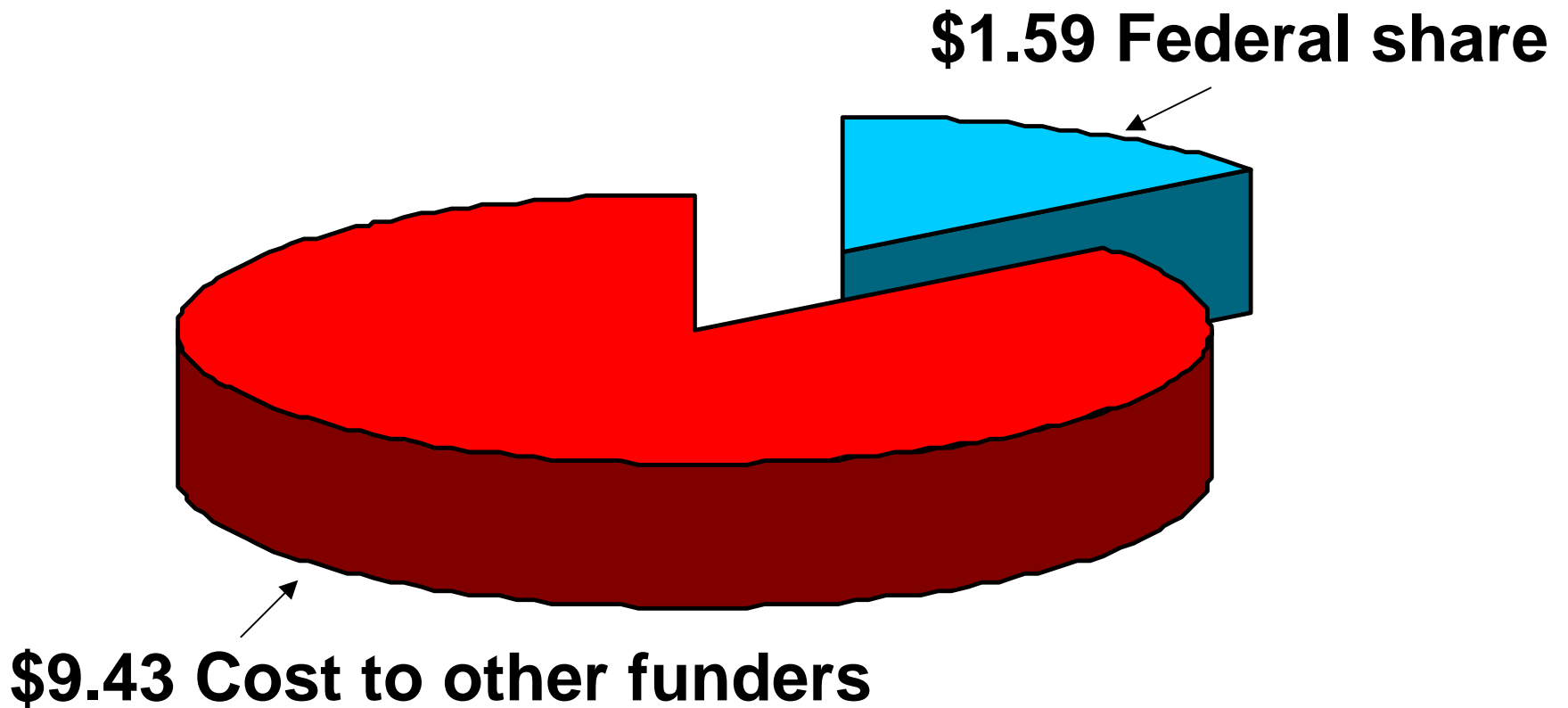
NUMBER 4

*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
LEVERAGES FEDERAL FUNDING*

For every federal dollar that goes to sites, the NWP leverages \$6 in other funding

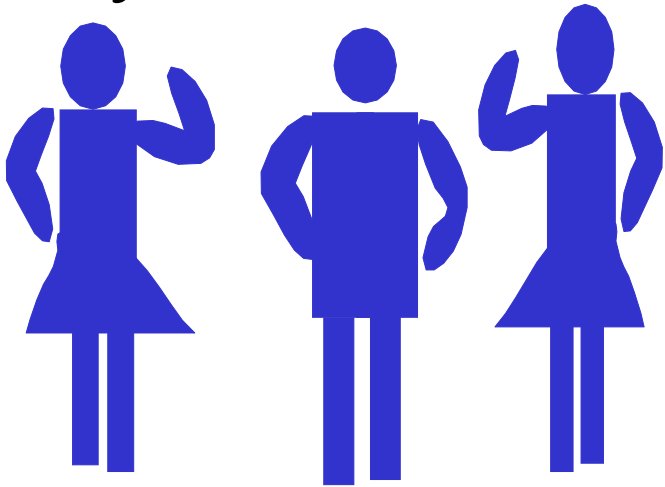


Cost per teacher contact-hour



***COST EFFECTIVE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS: Each \$100
federal investment in the NWP funds . . .***

Participation
by 3 teachers

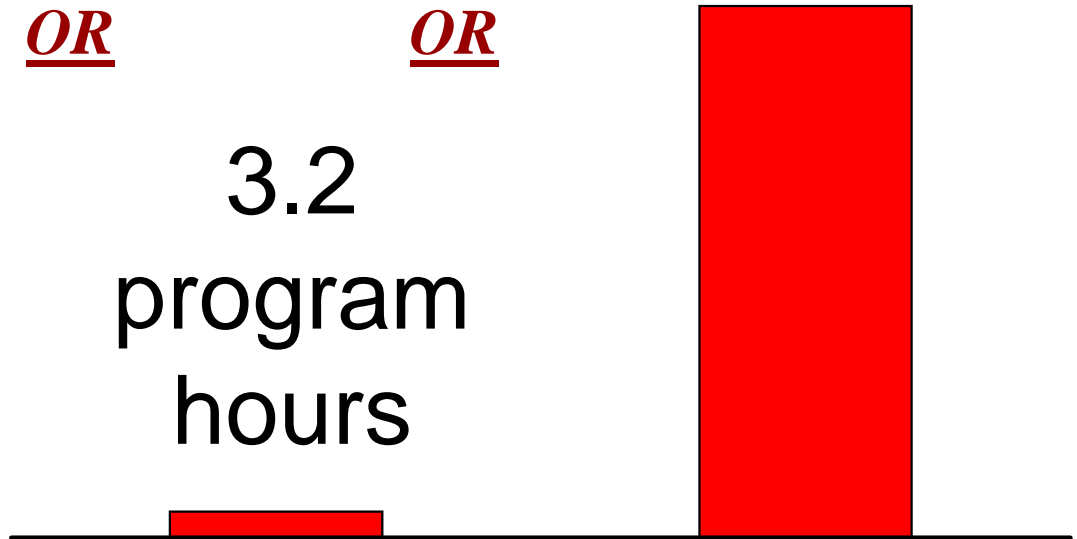


OR

OR

3.2
program
hours

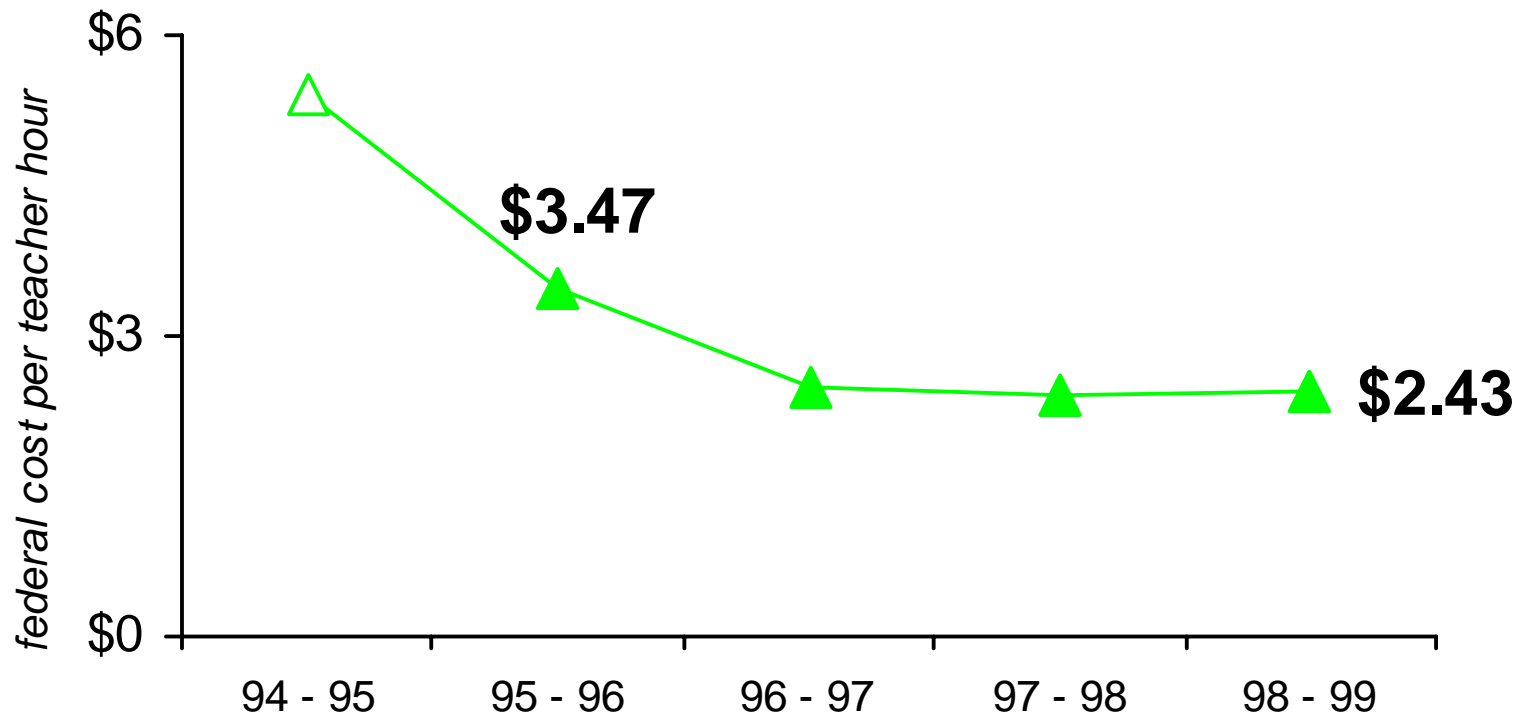
63 teacher
contact-
hours



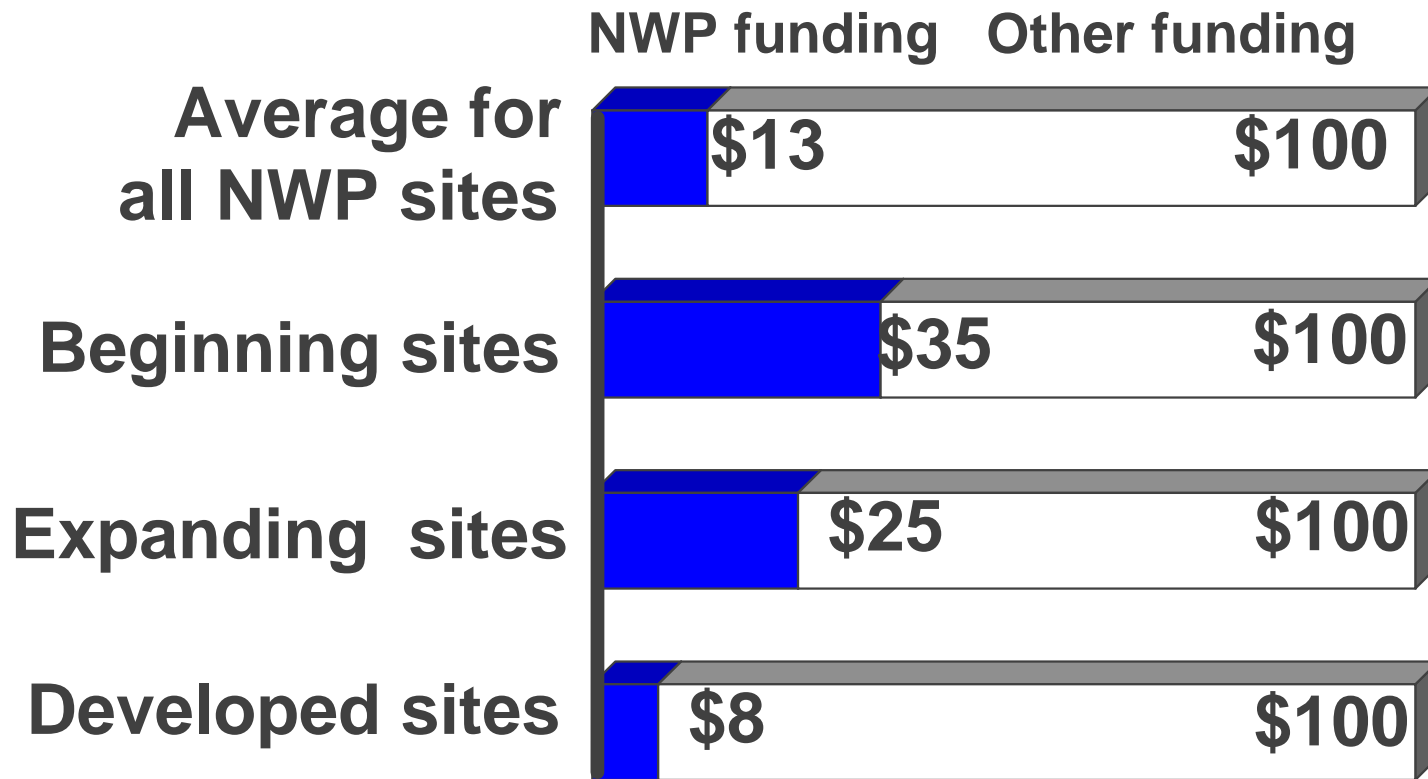
NUMBER 3

*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
IS AN INCREASINGLY COST-
EFFECTIVE INVESTMENT*

INCREASING COST EFFECTIVENESS: Federal cost per teacher contact-hour at the average beginning NWP site



Increasing effectiveness of sites in leveraging funding by NWP



Source: Annual surveys of NWP sites by Inverness Research Associates, Fall 1999 and 2000.

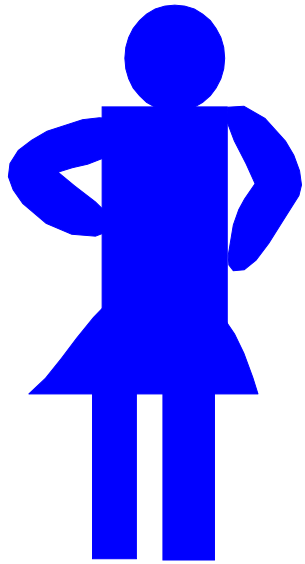
NUMBER 2

*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
PRODUCES A LASTING RESOURCE IN
ITS TEACHER LEADERS*

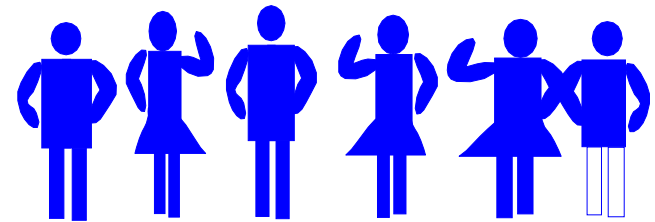
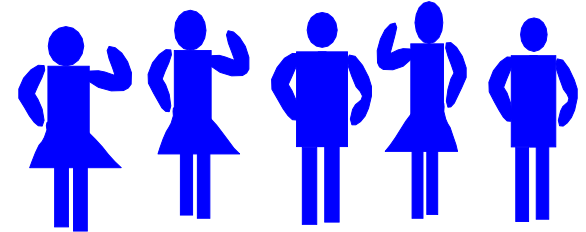
***ANNUALLY THE NWP SUPPORTS OVER 12,000
TEACHERS
IN TEACHING OTHER TEACHERS
and
IN ASSUMING OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES***

- ✓ *In NWP professional development programs*
- ✓ *In local district and school reform efforts*

THE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH OF THE 12,000 TEACHER LEADERS



7.3 hours



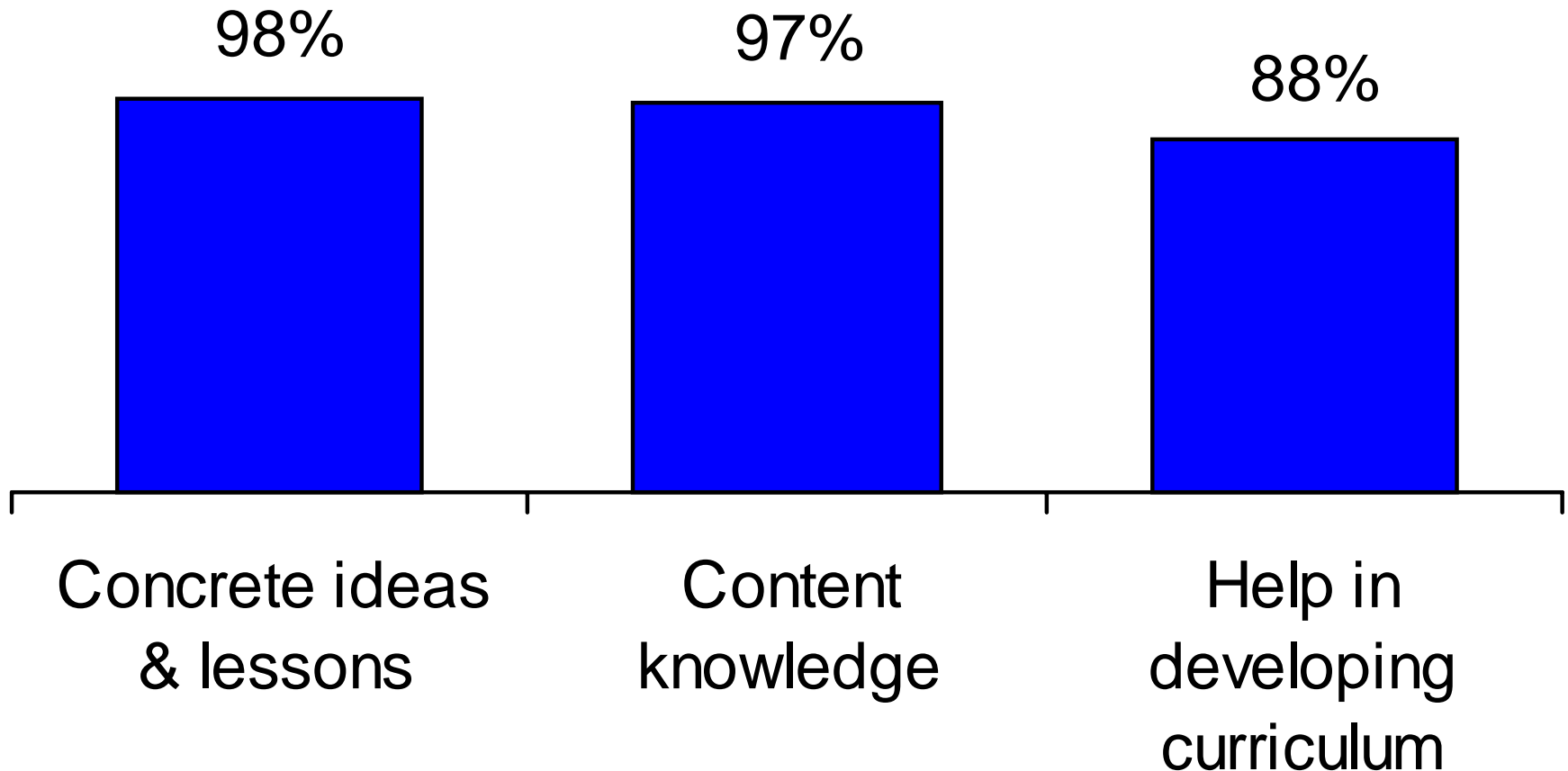
*10.6 teachers, administrators,
preservice candidates*



*6 students, parents,
community members*

*Average NWP
teacher
consultant*

Classroom expertise that Writing Project teacher leaders share with their colleagues



NUMBER 1

*THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT
IS A (RARE) LONG-TERM
INVESTMENT
THAT PRODUCES
ONGOING NATIONAL CAPACITY
TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF
AMERICA'S SCHOOLS*

END

A UNIQUE PROJECT SERVING THE NATION

- ✓ *167 sites in 49 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico*
- ✓ *Sponsoring 5,336 programs in 1999-2000*
- ✓ *Serving 100,000 teachers annually*
- ✓ *The ONLY national project for writing*

EXEMPLARY FEATURES OF THE NWP

- ✓ Cumulative work and impact over 25 years
- ✓ Focus on writing, a critical set of skills
- ✓ Grounded in classroom practice
- ✓ Support of leading teachers who teach teachers
- ✓ Reaching out to teachers and students in at-risk schools
- ✓ Serving teachers over time for in-depth and cumulative impact
- ✓ Designed to support state and local standards and curriculum
- ✓ Established national infrastructure for improvement
- ✓ Ongoing research, technical assistance and quality control

An Investment, Not an Expenditure

- Professional development that follows a clear and proven model
- A robust nationwide professional community that derives strength from and supports some the nation's best and beginning teachers.
- An asset and resource that strongly supports state and local reforms
- A project that grows itself and evolves its work over the long term