

THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

FIVE KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS

Inverness Research Associates

<http://www.inverness-research.org>

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The five key findings

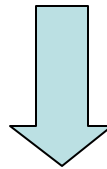
1. The NWP offers high quality professional development that enables teachers to improve their classroom practices and to enhance their students' learning.
2. The NWP is a nation-wide network that enables local sites to serve a significant number of the nation's teachers each year.
3. The NWP recruits and develops ethnically diverse teacher leaders, who in turn work with students who are more ethnically diverse than American students overall.
4. The NWP makes cost-efficient use of Federal funds.
5. The NWP is a model infrastructure that enables local sites to grow continually in their capacity to serve ever larger numbers of teachers.

Components of our evaluation of the NWP

- **Annual surveys of all NWP sites since 1994**
- **Annual surveys of all summer institute participants**
 - Demographics of participants & their students
 - Value and usefulness of the institute
 - "One year later" follow-up survey
- **Special studies for the NWP national office**

The five key findings (in brief)

1. High quality professional development that improves classroom practices and enhances student learning
2. A nation-wide network that serves many teachers
3. Ethnically diverse teacher leaders, who in turn work with ethnically diverse students
4. Cost-efficient use of Federal funds
5. National infrastructure that enables local sites to grow continually in their capacity to serve ever larger numbers of teachers.



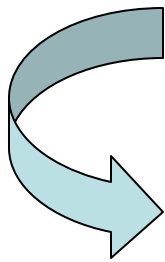
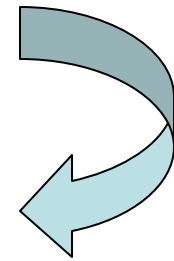
A unique investment in professional development

1. The National Writing Project offers high quality professional development that enables teachers to improve their classroom practices and to enhance their students' learning.

The Beginning of a Chain of Evidence:

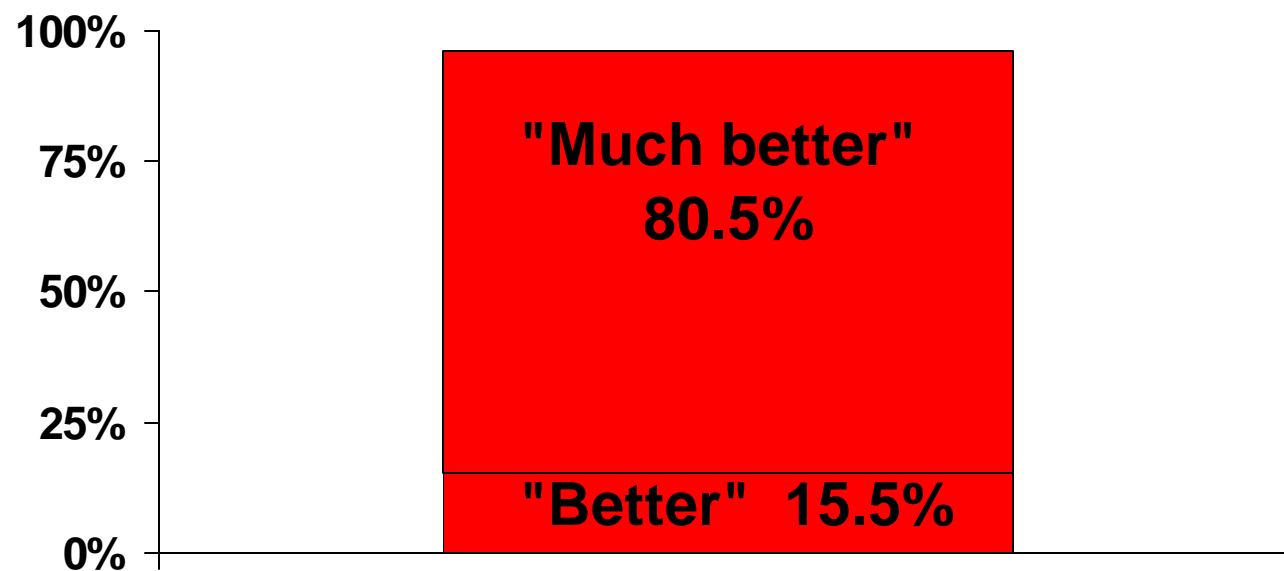
NWP offers professional development that contributes to . . .

Teacher learning



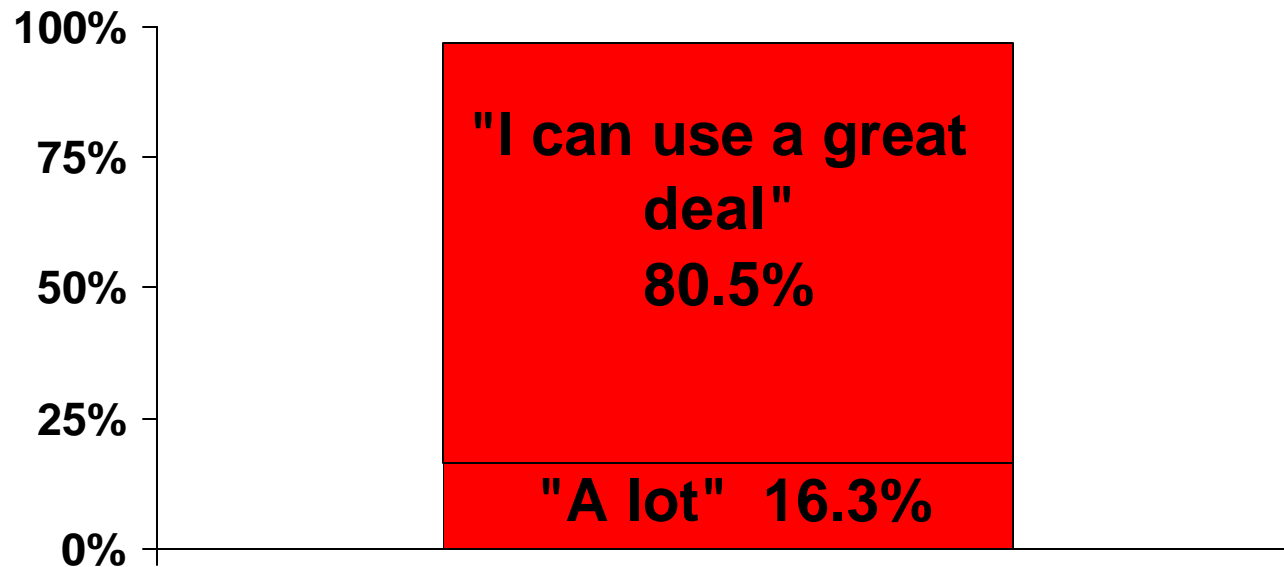
Changes in teaching practice

96% of teachers at core programs say that their quality is better or much better than other professional development

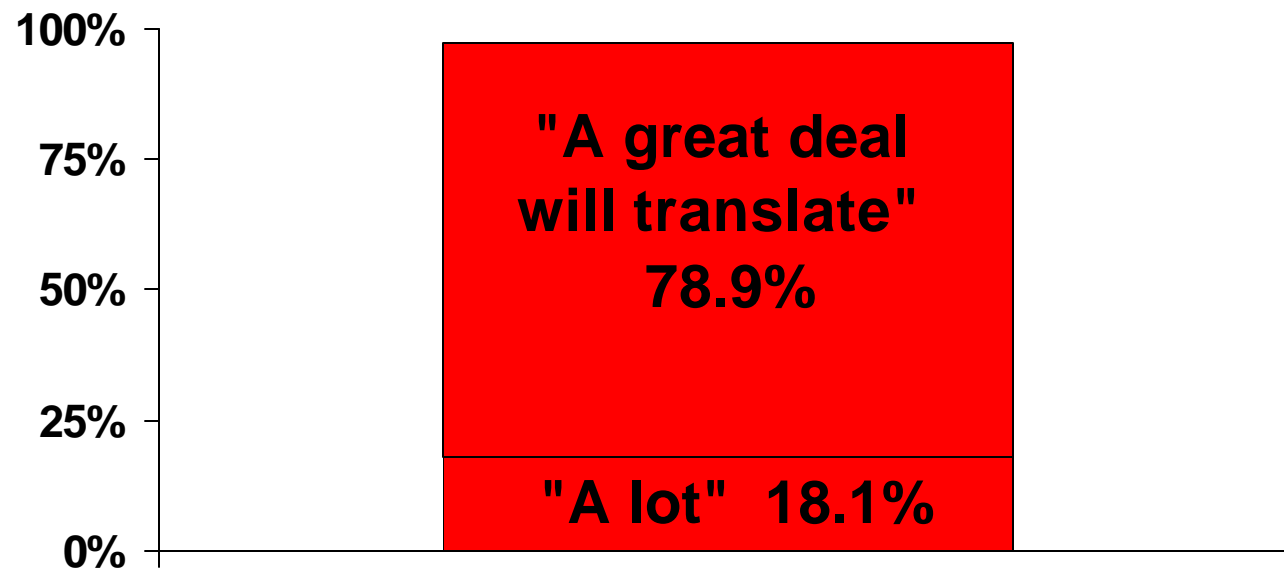


(Source: Survey of summer institute participants 2001)

97% of teachers at core programs say that they can use what they learn in the NWP with their own students



97% of teachers at core programs say that what they learn in the NWP translates into improved writing skills for their students



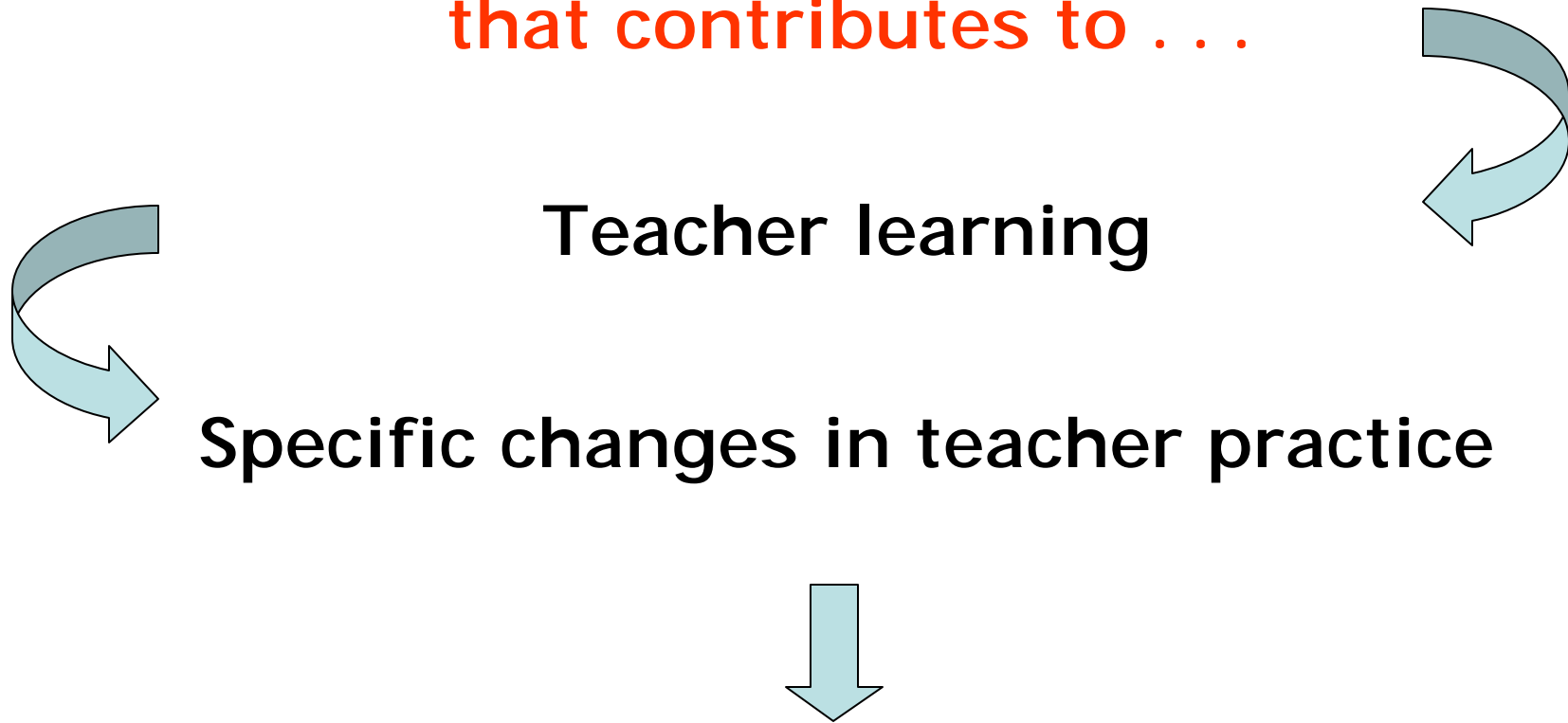
Continuing the Chain of Evidence:

**NWP offers professional development
that contributes to . . .**

Teacher learning

Specific changes in teacher practice

Higher NAEP scores



Practices fostered by NWP that correlate with NAEP achievement

Student or teacher defines an audience for the writing.

Students plan their writing.

Students produce more than one draft.

Students sometimes use a computer to write their draft.

Teachers talk to students about their writing.

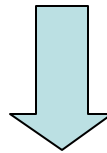
Students discuss their writing with their family.

Students' written work is saved in a portfolio.

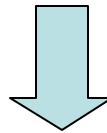
Summary

There is a lot of evidence of effectiveness:

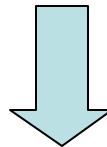
The NWP



helps teachers



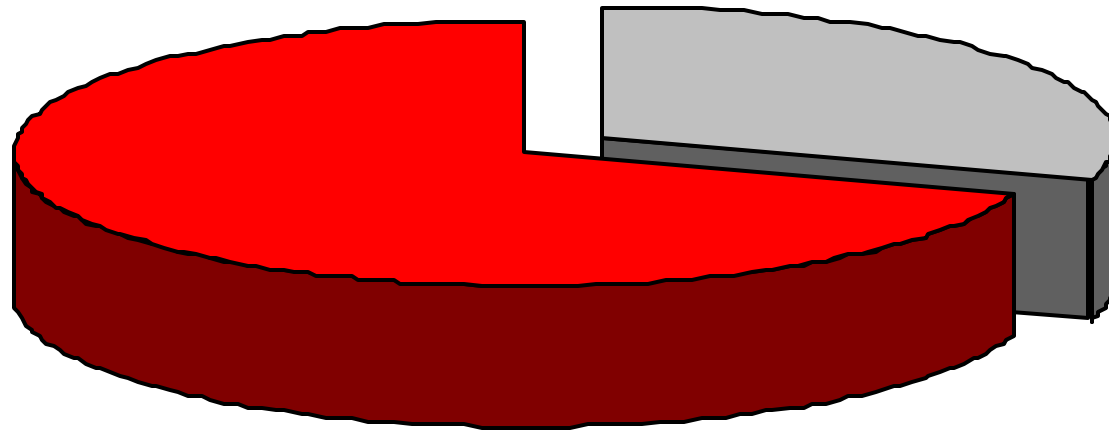
help students



become better at writing.

2. The National Writing Project is a nation-wide network that enables local sites to serve a significant number of the nation's teachers each year.

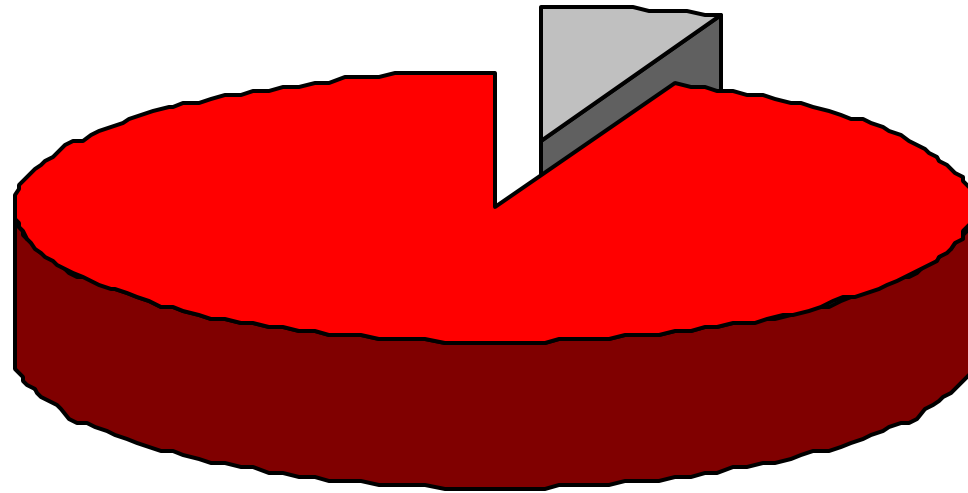
Geographic Coverage: 7 in 10 teachers in the U.S. are within the service area of a local Writing Project site



2.3 million teachers

(Sources: National Center for Education Statistics, annual site survey for 2001-02)

**47 of the 50 largest districts
in the U.S. are served by a
Writing Project site**



94% of the 50 largest districts

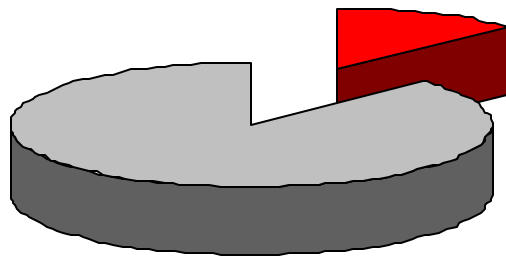
(Source: annual site survey for 2001-02)

Participation in Invitational Institutes

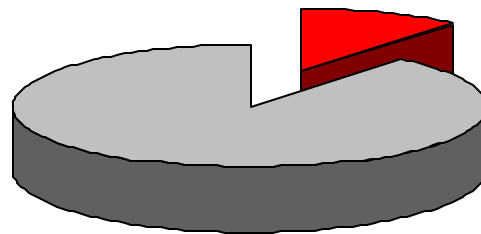
Every year 1 out of every 50 schools in the United States has a teacher participating in an invitational summer institute.

(Source: annual site survey for 2001-02)

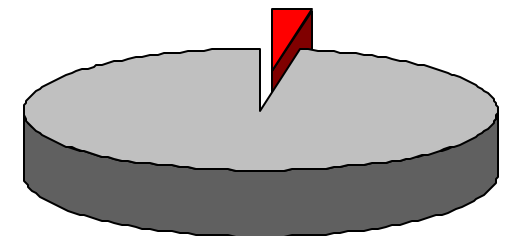
Each year the National Writing Project reaches significant numbers of teachers



1 out of every
8
High School
Language Arts
teachers



1 out of every
9
Middle School
Language Arts
teachers



1 out of every
35
Elementary
school
teachers

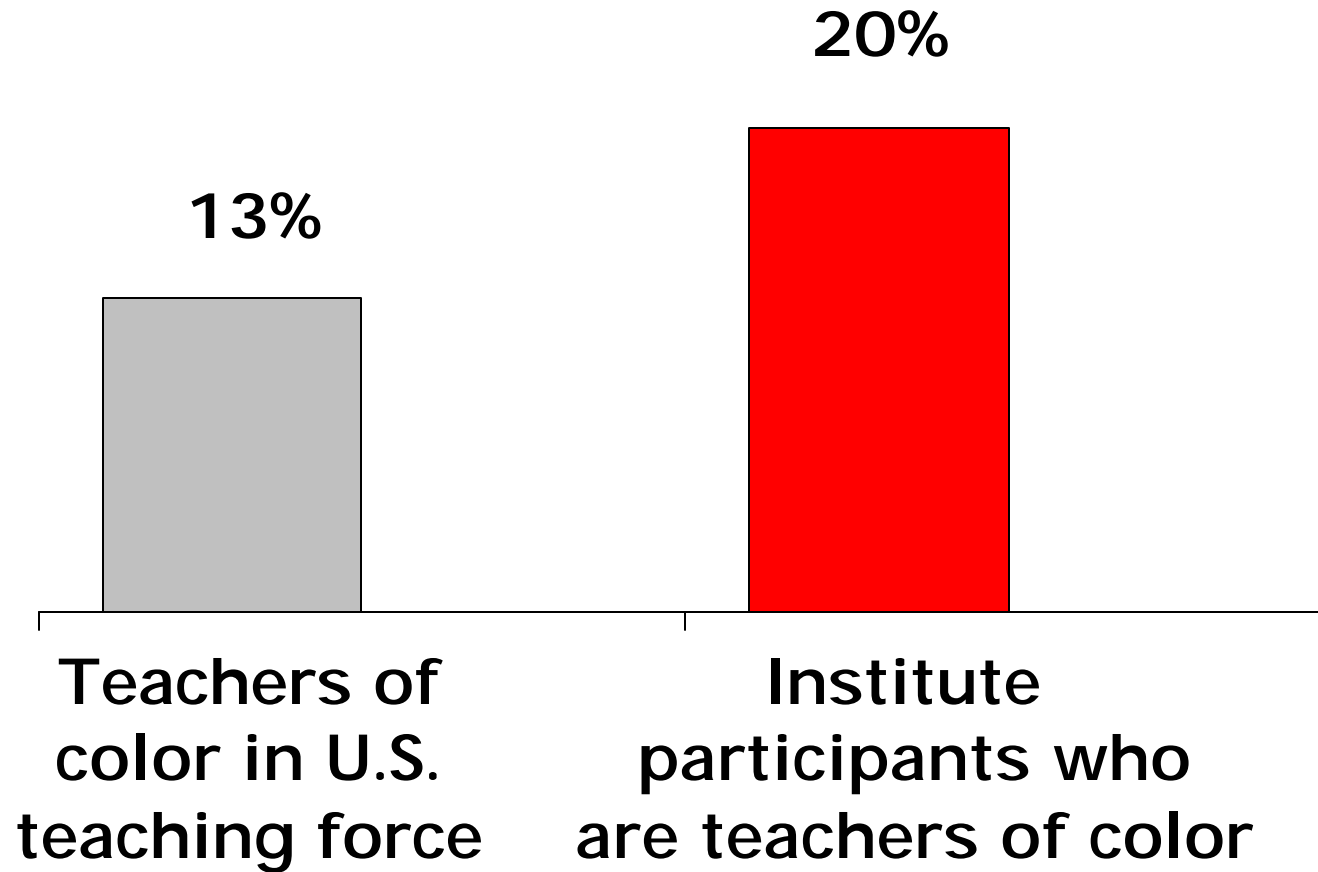
(Source: annual site survey for 2000-01)

Summary

The NWP offers professional development opportunities and services to a significant portion of the nation's teachers every year.

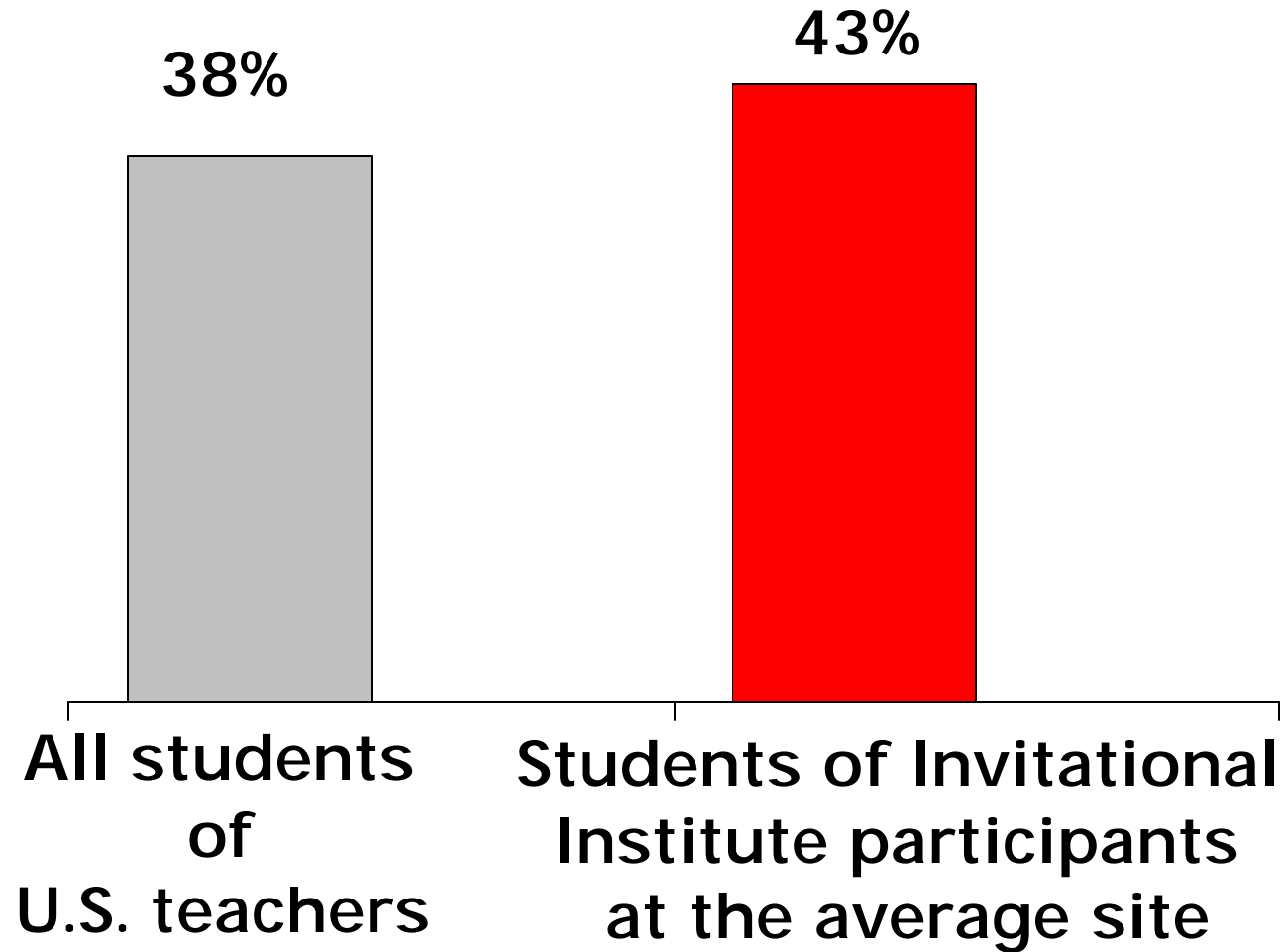
3. The National Writing Project recruits and develops ethnically diverse teacher leaders, who in turn work with students who are more ethnically diverse than American students overall.

Diversity: Teachers of Color



(Source: Survey of summer institute participants 2002)

Diversity: Students of Color



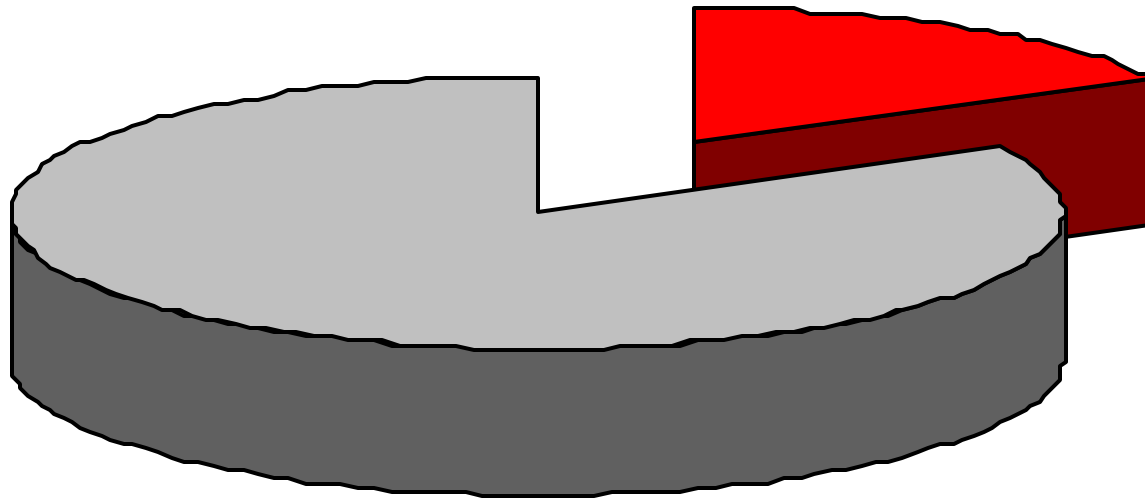
(Source: Survey of summer institute participants 2002)

Summary

The NWP's core leadership development program serves teachers and students of color in higher proportions than the national average.

4. The National Writing Project makes cost-efficient use of Federal funds.

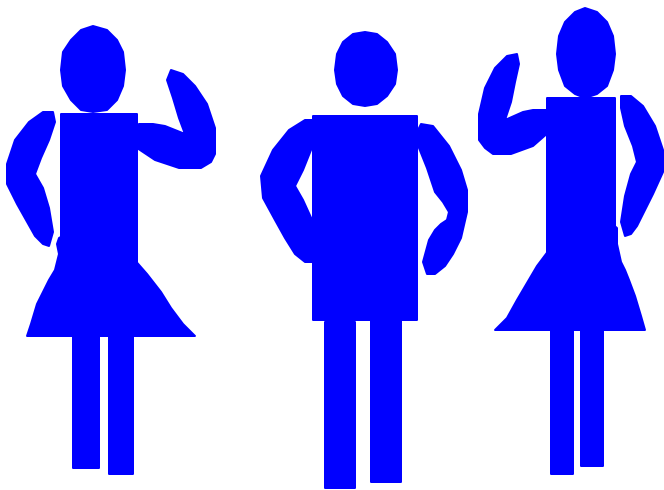
**For every \$1 of Federal funds,
NWP sites leverage an average
of \$4.60 in state and local
dollars.**



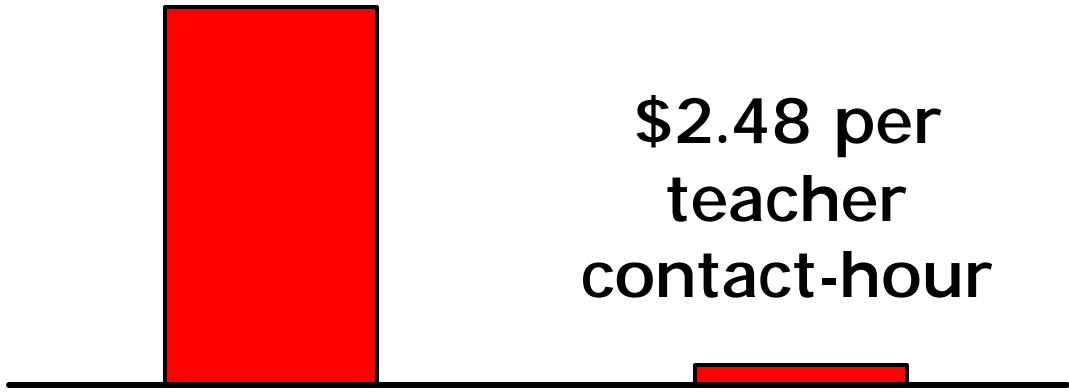
(Source: annual site survey for 2001-02)

The NWP provides high quality professional development at a very low cost to the Federal Government

\$33.17 per teacher participant



\$44.70 per program hour



\$2.48 per teacher contact-hour

(Source: annual site survey for 2001-02)

Summary

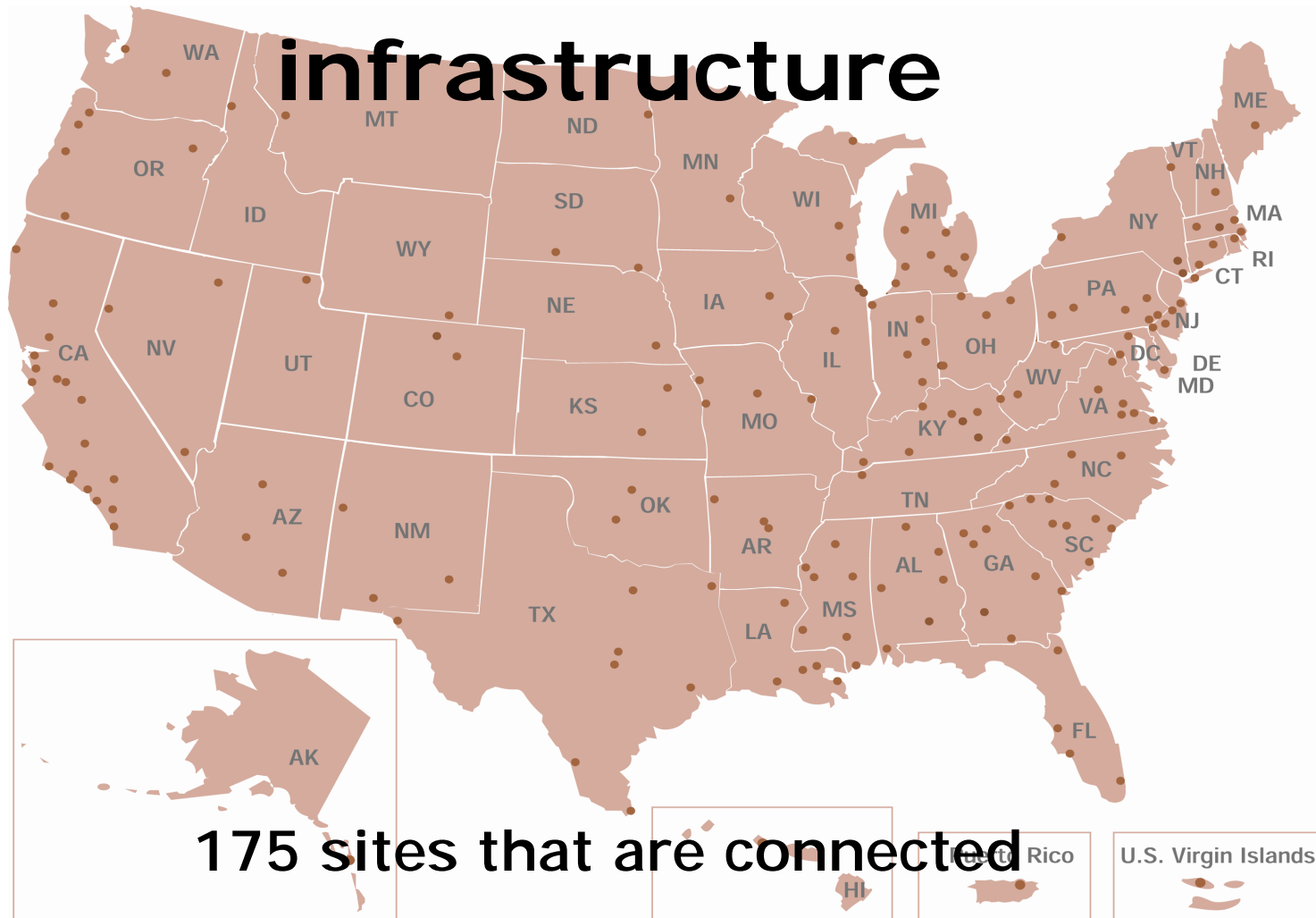
The NWP is a good investment of federal funds.

5. The National Writing Project is a national infrastructure that enables local sites to grow continually in their capacity to serve ever larger numbers of teachers.

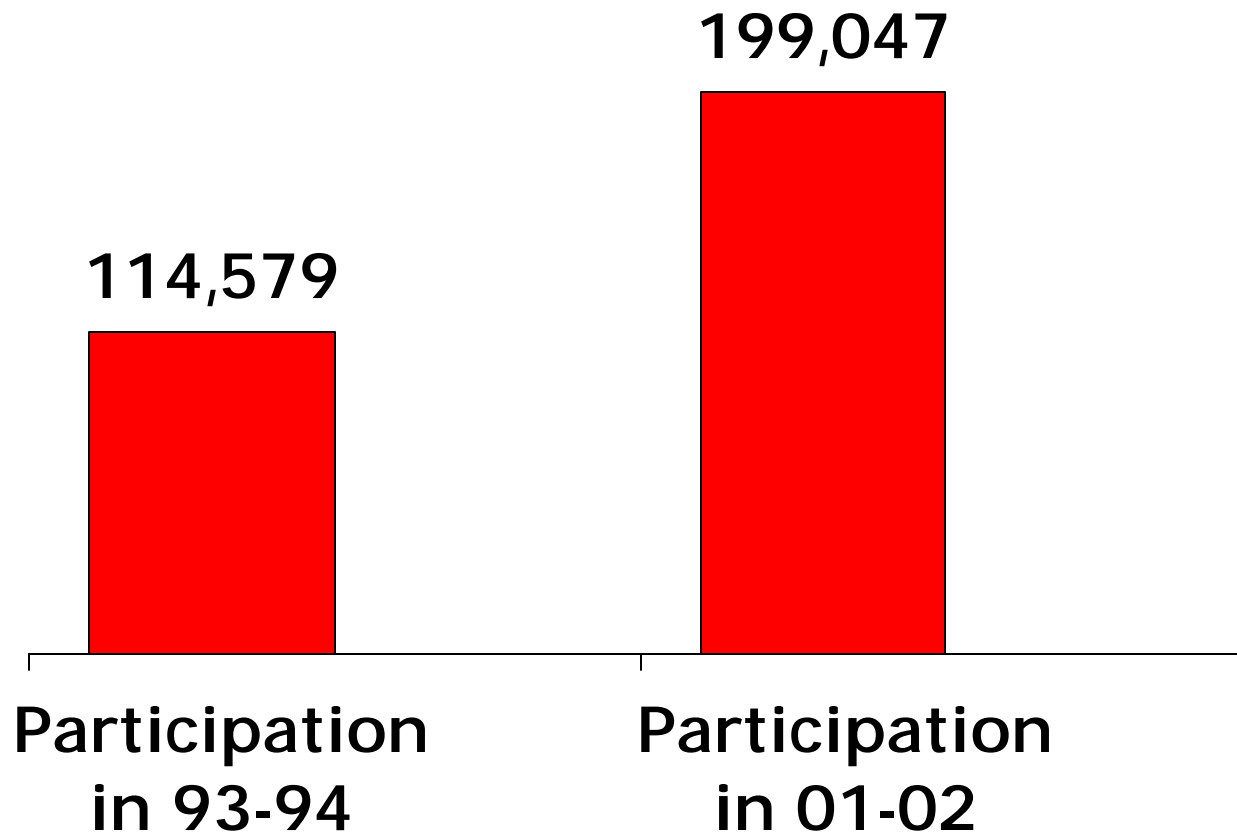
The Idea of Educational Infrastructure

- **Infrastructure – a permanent structure that lies beneath the visible surface that facilitates other functions and activities**
 - *Water system, electrical system, bridges, roads...*
 - *Creates connections where there are disjunctures*
- **The NWP is a national professional development infrastructure that supports a coherent set of local professional development activities**

NWP is a national network of local sites that are all part of the same connected infrastructure

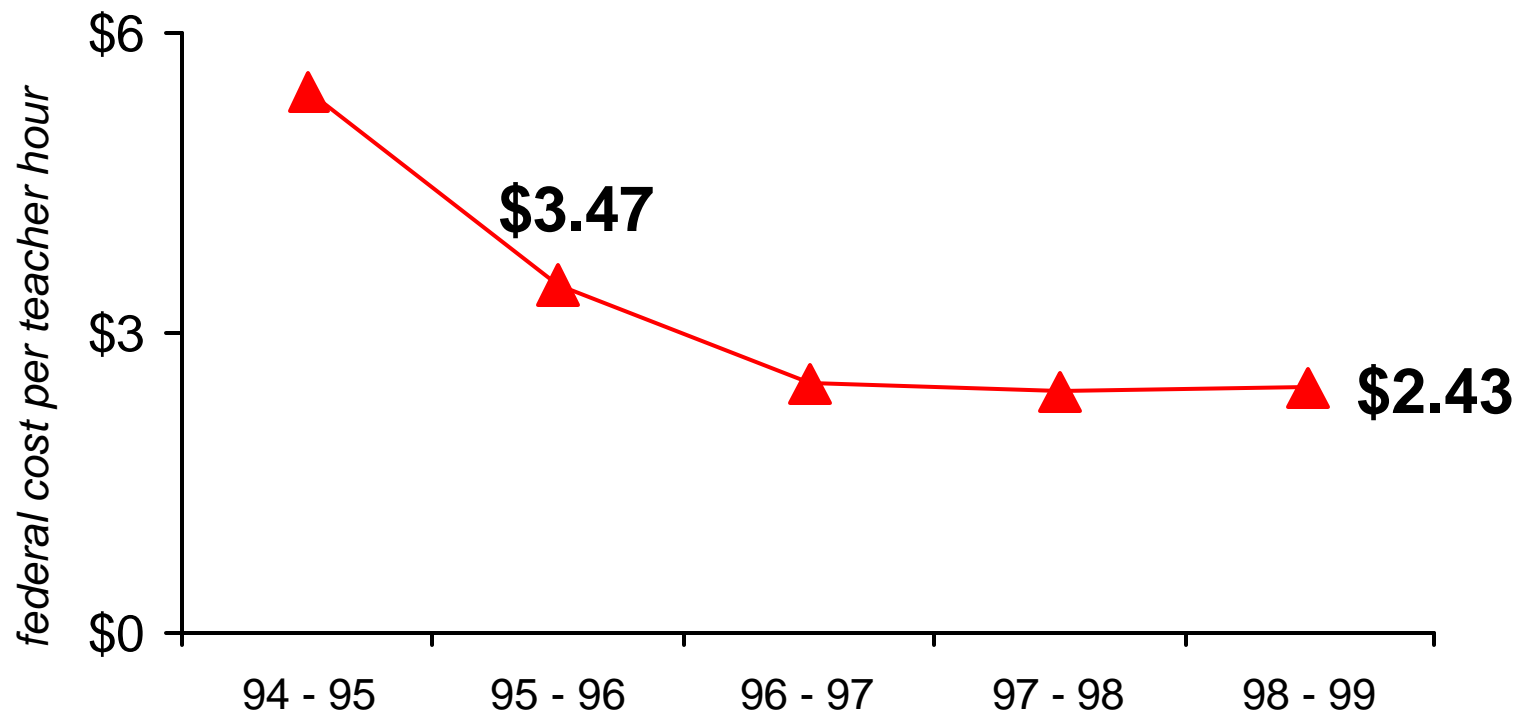


The NWP grows about 10% per year in its participants



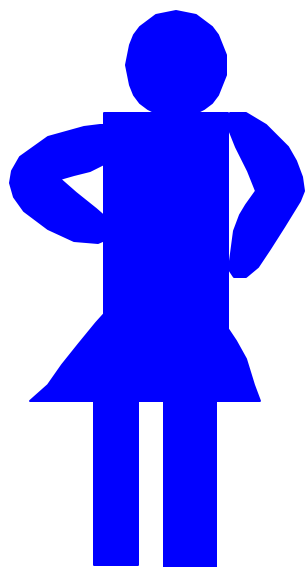
(Source: annual site surveys)

Federal costs per teacher contact-hour fall as sites "grow" their programs

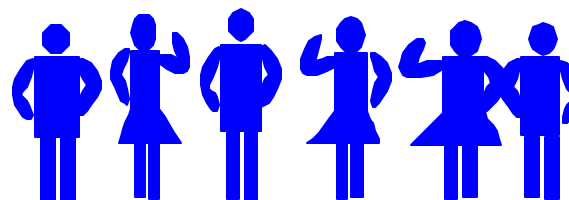
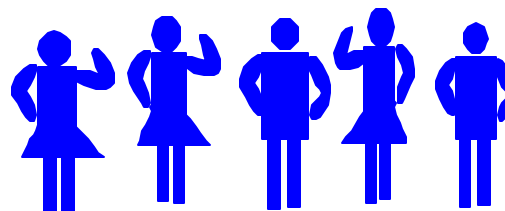


(Source: five-year study of 94-95 cohort of beginning sites)

Leverage: The 175 sites support 12,500 teacher leaders



*Average NWP
teacher
consultant*



*11 teachers, administrators,
preservice candidates*



*5 students, parents,
community members*

NWP is different from other projects in education

MOST PROJECTS

- 3-5 year lifespan
- Static capacity
- Isolated project work
- Limited participants
- High cost per participant and program hour

NWP

- 30 years of steady growth
- Ever-growing cumulative capacity
- National network
- Largest teacher professional development enterprise in U.S.
- Cost-efficient

Overall Summary

There is evaluation evidence that NWP

- Is effective for teachers and students: A professional development model that works for teachers and students.
- Works both locally and at a national scale: A nationwide infrastructure that supports the local implementation of the model across 175 local sites.

END