



UNDERSTANDING THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

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KEY POINTS

I. THERE IS A NEED FOR HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

II. THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT IS A SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHING

II. CONTINUOUS FEDERAL FUNDING IS CRITICAL TO THE NWP'S ABILITY TO DO ITS FUTURE WORK



**POINT I. THERE IS A NEED FOR
HIGH QUALITY PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**



Research shows that

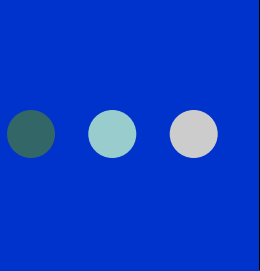
- Good teaching is key to student learning
- Teacher learning is key to good teaching
- The nation's school systems lack the capacity to provide good professional development for all teachers



*Conclusion from 2009
international study of professional
development*

“Given what we know about ... the current lack of capacity and infrastructure of many school organizations to provide the kinds of powerful learning opportunities that teachers need to support student learning, the question that remains is this — **how can states, districts, and schools build their capacities to provide the kinds of high-quality professional development that is effective in building teacher knowledge, improving their instruction, and supporting student learning?**”

From: *Professional Learning in the Learning Profession: A Status Report on Teacher Development in the U.S. and Abroad* (p. 62). Wei, et al., National Staff Development Council (2009)



POINT II—THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT IS A SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF TEACHING WRITING

- A. The National Writing Project is the largest scale and longest-standing teacher development program in U.S. history.**
- B. The NWP is not just another professional development “project.” It is a national infrastructure of over 200 linked sites that span all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.**
- C. Federal funding of the NWP is not just another annual “expenditure.” It is an investment that is cost efficient and generates ever-expanding capacity to serve teachers.**
- D. The federal investment in the NWP infrastructure produces high quality programs that lead to large-scale improvements in the teaching and learning of writing.**



A. The NWP is the largest and longest-standing teacher development program in U.S. history



Since its beginning as one site in 1974, the NWP has expanded its capacity to national scale

- In 2010, NWP has 126 sites that are 10 years old or older.
- 80,000 - 100,000 individual teachers served annually
- 35 years of cumulative service and impact



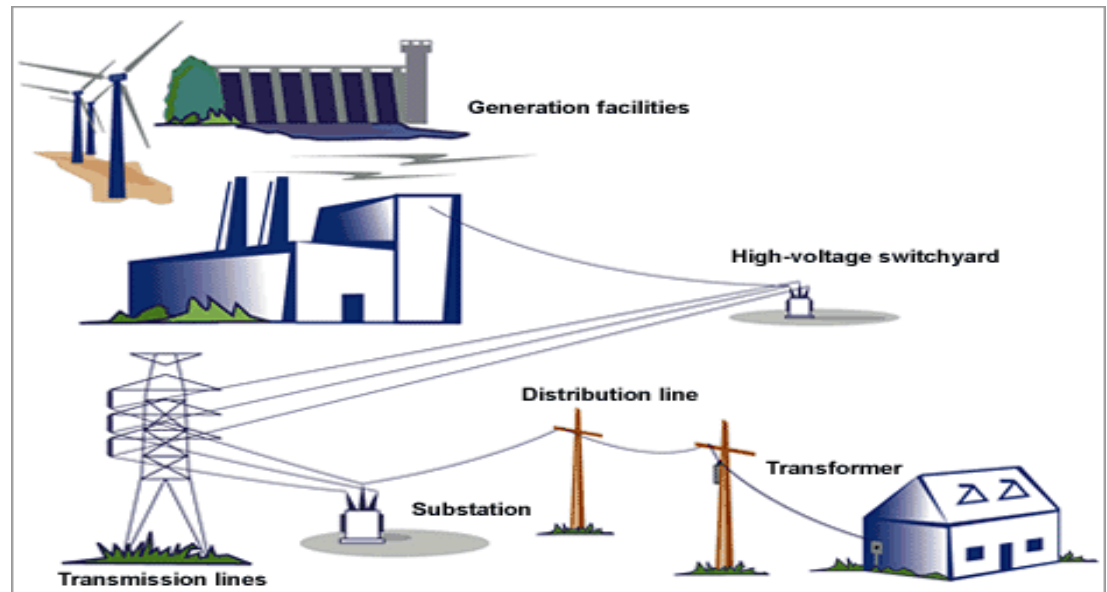
B. The NWP is not just another professional development “project.”

It is a national infrastructure composed of over 200 linked sites that span all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

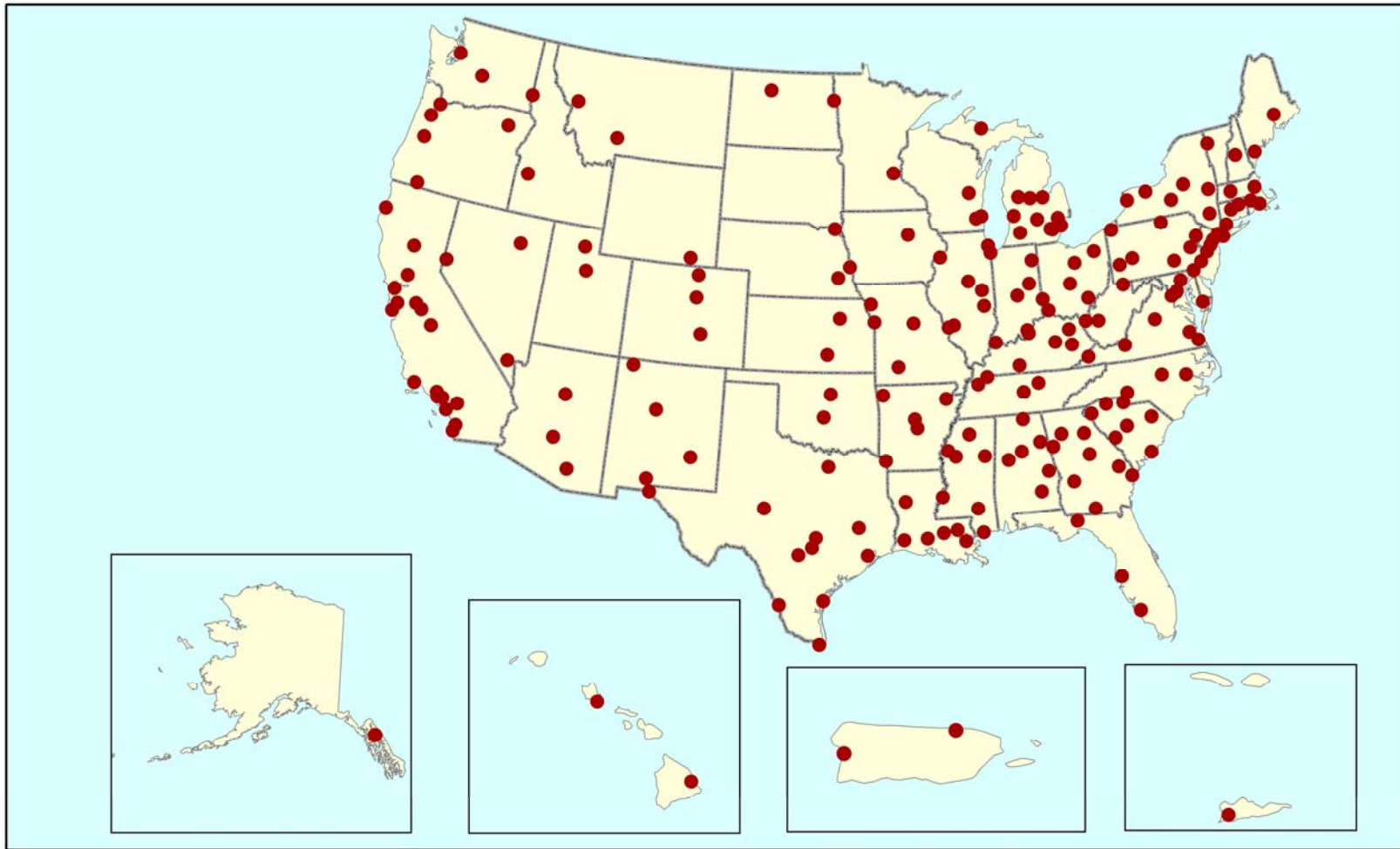


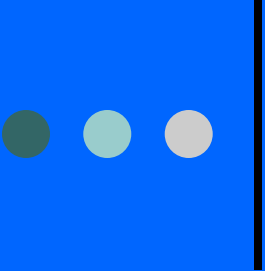
By infrastructure, we mean a foundational system that literally empowers the daily work of millions of people.

- Everyday examples—electrical grid, air traffic systems, roads and highways
- Strong central capacity supports customized local services
- Broad and equitable access



● ● ● | *Across the network, 79% of all public school teachers are within 50 miles of a Writing Project site.*





C. Federal funding of the NWP is not just another annual “expenditure.”

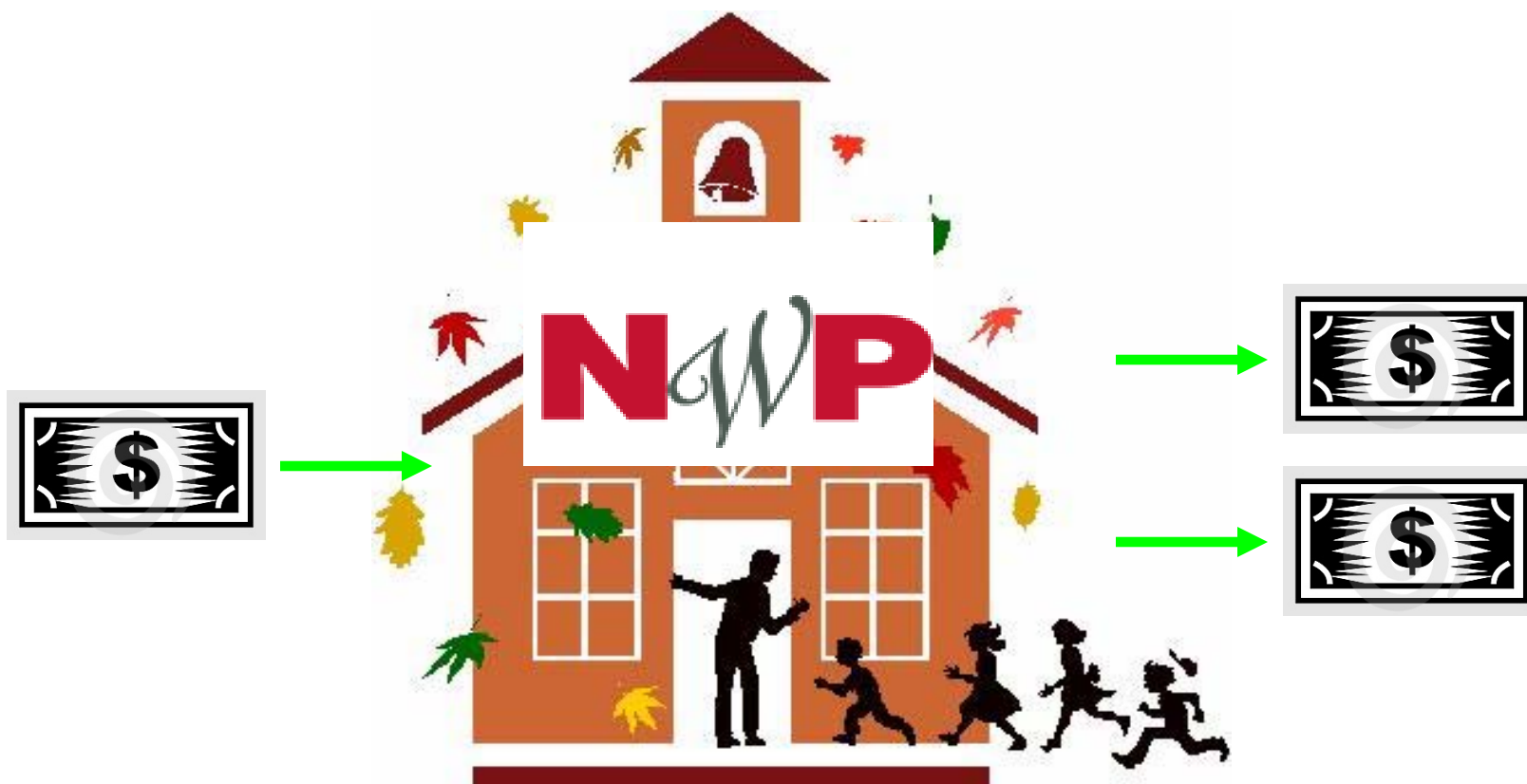
**It is an investment that is cost efficient
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generates ever-expanding capacity to serve teachers.**



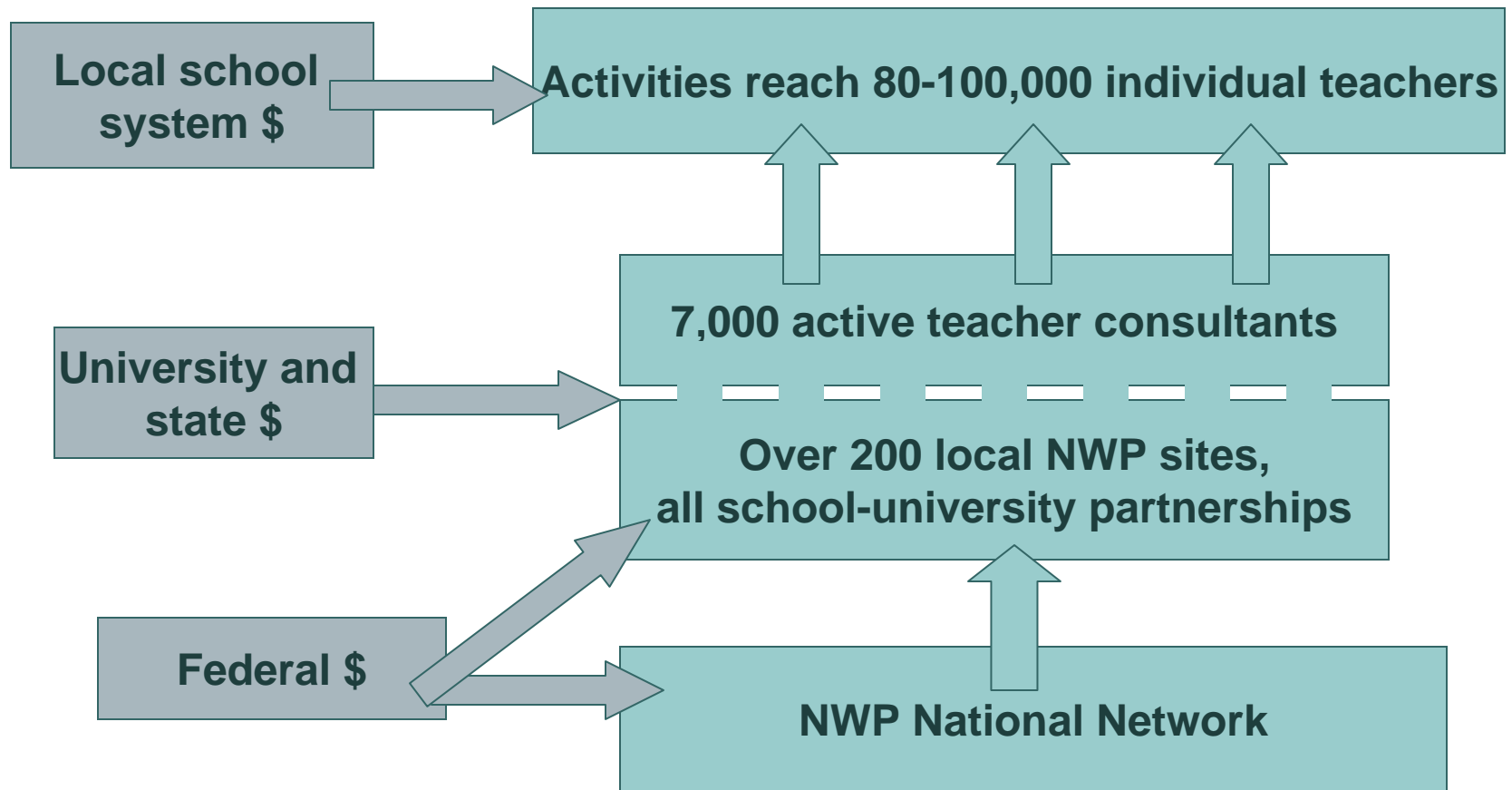
The NWP investment is highly cost efficient



Through effective leveraging, the federal investment is nearly doubled by university, state, and local school funds



The NWP generates working capital for the nation's education system

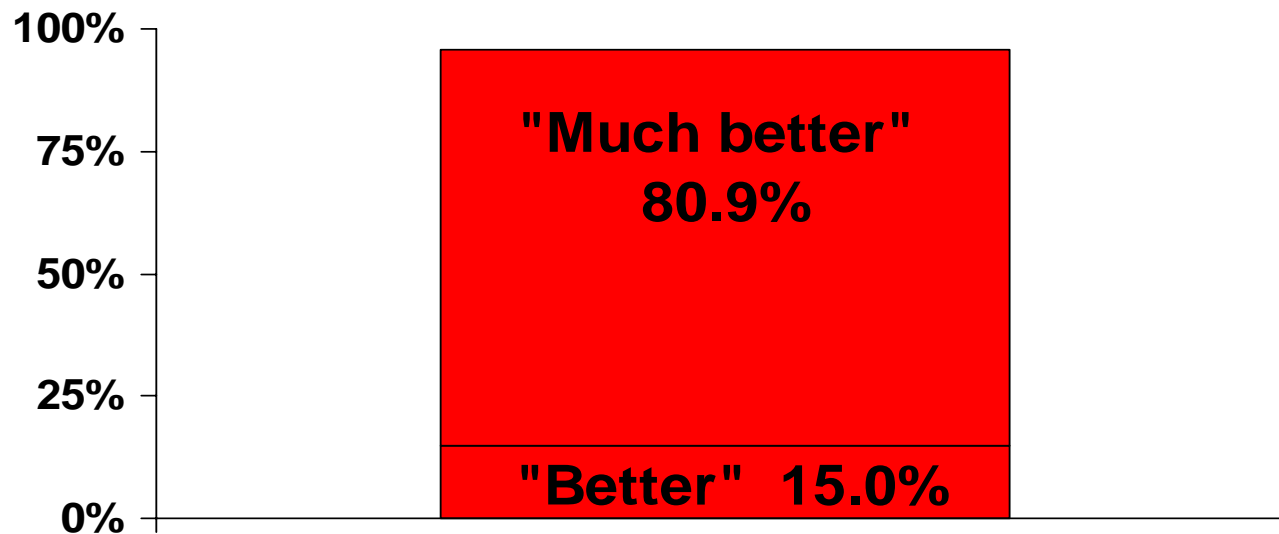




D. NWP infrastructure produces high quality programs that lead to large-scale improvements in teaching and learning.



96% of teachers at NWP institutes say NWP is better than other professional development.

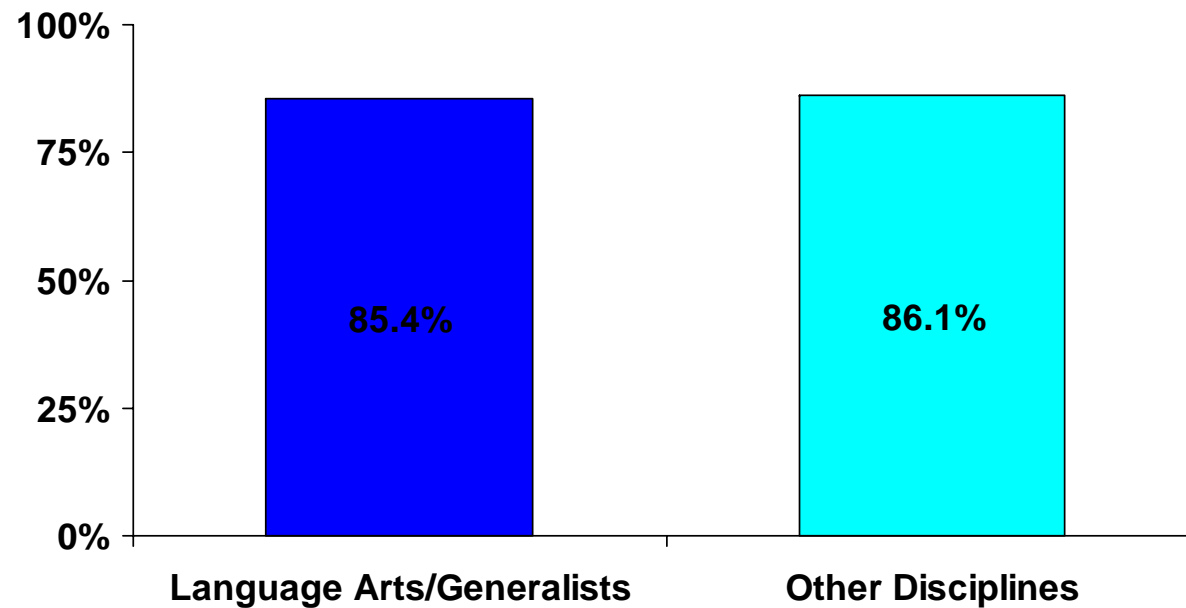


(Source: Survey of summer institute participants 2009)



NWP institutes are equally effective for teachers of all content areas.

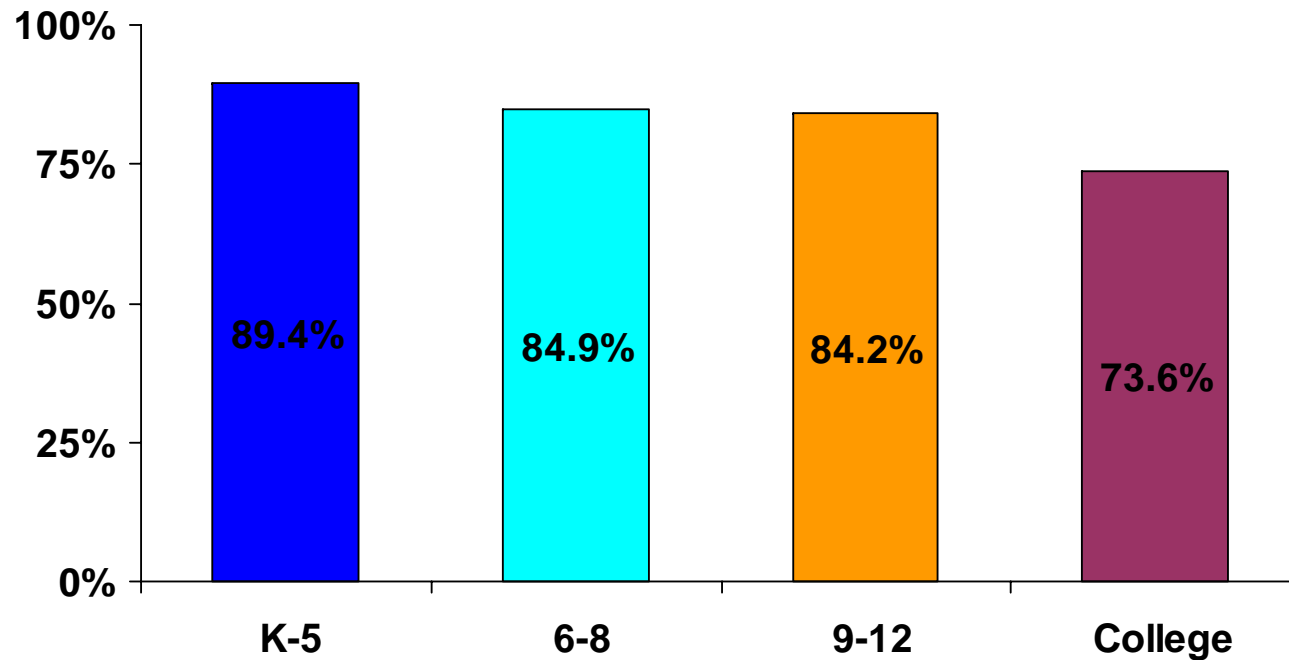
“The WP has enabled me to teach a wider range of students more effectively.”



(Source: Survey of summer institute participants 2009)

NWP institutes help teachers of all grade levels improve their teaching.

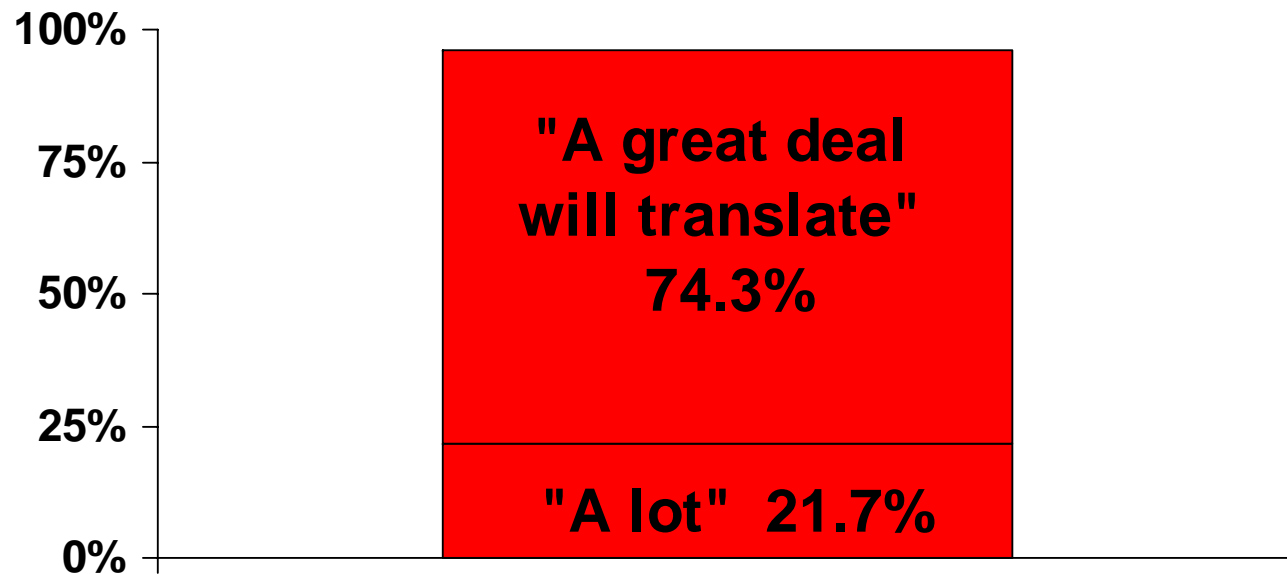
“The WP has enabled me to teach a wider range of students more effectively.”



(Source: Survey of summer institute participants 2009)



96% of teachers at NWP institutes say that what they learn translates into improved writing skills for their students.



(Source: Survey of summer institute participants 2009)



POINT III—FEDERAL FUNDING REMAINS CRITICAL TO THE NWP'S ABILITY TO DO FUTURE WORK

- A. Federal funding enables the infrastructure to function.**
- B. The NWP is already the kind of large-scale, effective program that the DOE wants to support.**

A discontinuity in federal funding could put the entire infrastructure, built over 30 years, at risk.



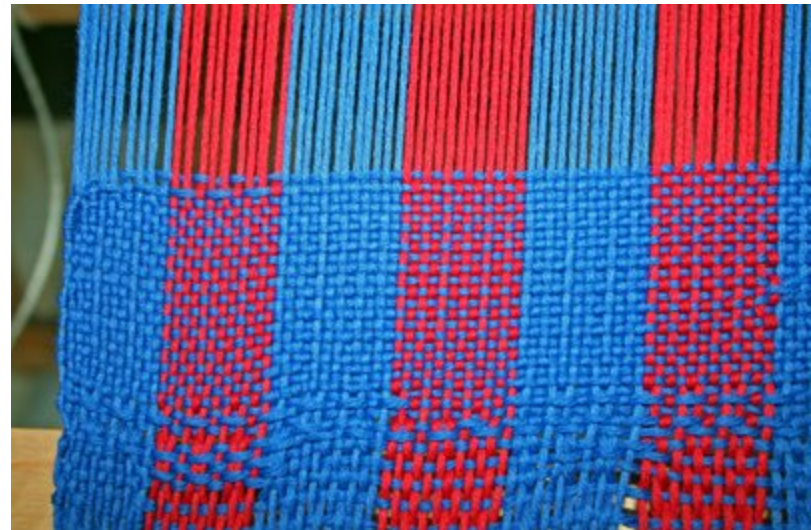
A. FEDERAL FUNDING ENABLES THE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO FUNCTION



Think of infrastructure as a woven cloth

The power of the infrastructure is in its unitary, coherent, whole interconnected nature.

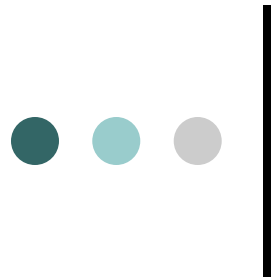
It is important to support the whole cloth, not some disconnected threads...





Federal funding enables the infrastructure to function, grow and improve

- **Core support for local sites**
 - Growing teacher leadership capacity
 - Grants for innovation
- **Core support for national office**
 - Annual site review
 - Research and evaluation
- **Support for the connectivity and mutually supportive interactions among all levels**
 - Publication and dissemination
 - Sub-networks and special initiatives
- **Support for growth and improvement**
 - Technical assistance
 - Professional development for directors



People count on an infrastructure to provide reliable, high quality service

States, districts, schools, teachers and students are counting on NWP capacity that is available **right now**—

- *More than 200 fully functional writing project sites across the country*
- *Over 700 experienced site directors and co-directors in place, each with an average of 6 years of experience*
- *Thousands of teacher-consultants providing support to their colleagues*



B. The NWP is already the kind of large-scale, effective program that the DOE wants to support.

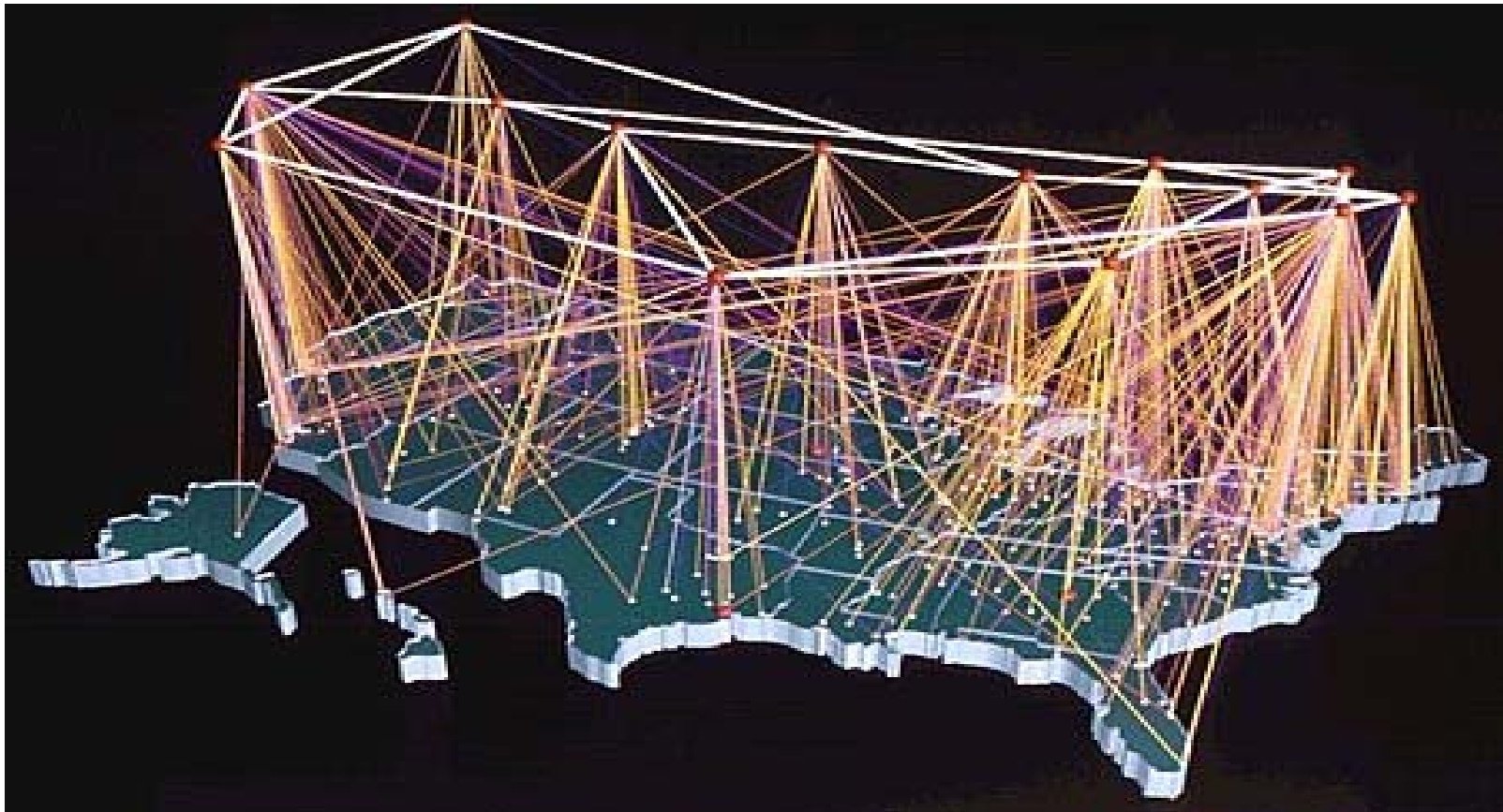


NWP has 30 years of research and evidence

- At a national scale and continuing to grow
- A proven model for building teacher leadership
- Serves tens of thousands of teachers and students every year
- Cost efficient
- Meets local needs and adapts to local contexts
- Supports and spreads innovation locally and nationally
- A portfolio of research and evaluation studies showing indirect and direct contributions to student improvement in writing



A connected network that is a national infrastructure





A discontinuity in federal funding could put the entire infrastructure, built over 30 years, at risk.