What is NUA?

The National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUA) is a nonprofit professional development organization that sends highly experienced mentors into classrooms to partner with teachers, principals, students and parents to help create a belief that every child can succeed academically and personally.

Founded in 1989 at Columbia University’s Teachers College, NUA has partnered with dozens of school districts and thousands of teachers and students throughout the United States – from California to Minnesota to Georgia to New York, to name a few. We work to embolden teachers and accelerate academic achievement for students.

Our philosophy is simple and backed by science:

All students have the capacity to think and achieve at high levels, extend beyond their current boundaries and reach their full potential.

Who is NUA?

Our educational mentors are award-winning teachers and former principals and superintendents from across the country. These experienced educators work in some of the most challenged schools to provide student-focused classroom-based professional development, advocacy and organizational guidance to accelerate student achievement.

“The NUA is a dynamic force in school reform. A desperately needed catalyst for change and an important source of courage for those in the trenches.” - Jonathan Kozol, Author
How does NUA work?

The NUA incorporates instructional strategies and teaching practices that are aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Our mentors design and lead demonstration lessons that guide teachers in accelerating students’ achievement by:

✓ using processes that reveal students’ strengths to build on academic areas that need improvement
✓ amplifying students’ voices to encourage a growth mindset
✓ demonstrating culturally responsive lessons in the classroom to show:
  o engagement and motivation demonstrated through high intellectual performances
  o reading of complex texts in the content areas
  o writing in the content areas to show understanding and for self-expression
  o vocabulary and comprehension development to construct meaning of nonfiction texts

A comprehensive partnership with the NUA includes:

✓ An instructional assessment
✓ A three-day district-based summer institute
✓ A minimum of 10 school visits by an NUA mentor
✓ Collaborative leadership training
✓ Coach/teacher leader training for sustainability
✓ Participation in the NUA national summer academy

“This year is truly the best year of my teaching career. I learned so much at the NUA trainings and this knowledge is definitely rubbing off on my students.”

- Melissa Hunt, Albany, NY

NUA Success Stories

With NUA, students learn more and teachers become more confident in their ability to draw out high levels of performances from their students. In many schools, students achieve double-digit gains on statewide assessments. For example:

• Eden Prairie, MN: In 2011 the gap between white students and black students on the reading assessments stood at 26 percentage points – a narrowing of 16 points from 2008, when the gap was 42 points.

• San Francisco: Visitacion Valley Middle experienced a 16-point gain in 6th grade math and an 18-point gain in 8th grade social studies, and made a 40-point gain overall on state assessments.

• Albany, NY: After just three years of NUA partnerships in each elementary and middle school, the district, for the first time in its history, saw the majority of its students – 61 percent of students in grades 3 through 8 – score at proficient or above proficient on the New York State English Language Arts standardized test.

For details about these success stories and others, please visit http://nuatc.org/our-results/.

Teaching for Intelligence