

Summary of Evaluation and Research Findings

Inverness Research Associates

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

- 99% of teachers in CWP core programs say that CWP professional development is better than other professional development.
- 98% of teachers say that what they learn in the CWP translates into improved teaching and improved writing skills for their students.
- CWP uses teaching practices that correlate with higher writing achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress more often than other teachers.

The California Writing Project is a statewide network that enables local sites to serve a significant number of California's teachers each year.

- The CWP supports 2,500 teacher leaders, who in turn serve 1 in 9 teachers across California.
- The CWP works in multi-year, intensive partnerships with over 70 school districts and over 80 additional individual schools.

In the context of its partnerships with students, the CWP is offering professional development content that is of significance and value to the participating teachers and that many teachers believe is ultimately beneficial to their students.

- Teachers in the schools that work in multi-year partnerships with the California Writing Project are able to translate what they learn into higher performance goals for their students and use instructional and assessment practices that correlate with higher achievement scores more often than other teachers.
- Teachers in partnership schools reported that the writing project helped them become more up-to-date on the latest research, more familiar with strategies to teach diverse and struggling students, and more knowledgeable about helping English learners reach standards.

The California Writing Project is a model infrastructure that enables the seventeen local writing projects, nine on UC campuses and eight on CSU campuses, to grow continually in their capacity to serve teachers.

- Annual participation in CWP programs has increased 110% since 1993, reaching 47,000 participants in 2002, and averaging 30,000 participants annually.
- CWP is different from other projects in education. While most projects have a 3-5 year lifespan, CWP is professional learning community that is 40 years strong.
- CWP is a professional development model that works for teachers and students and works both locally and at a statewide level.