

# ITLN

Illinois  
Teacher Leadership  
Network

## ITLN GOAL

To develop a sustainable culture of Teacher Leadership in Illinois.

## ITLN MISSION

Increasing success for all students through teacher leadership in instruction, professional collaboration, policy, and advocacy.

## ITLN THEORY OF CHANGE

If we design and provide a system of support for teacher career pathways; shared decision-making in schools, districts, and state; and align training practice and accountability to the Teacher Leader Model Standards— Then it will result in recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers, improved school culture and teaching practice, and increased student growth and achievement for all.

## ITLN is committed to-

- Changing the culture so that everyone understands recognizes and promotes teachers as leaders.
- Promoting best practices in the development and utilization of teacher leaders.
- Finding the resources to provide the training and support to teacher leaders and administrators as they develop cultures of differentiated leadership.
- Providing opportunities for teacher leaders to become collaborative partners with multiple stakeholders in moving school communities forward.
- Improving practices in teacher leadership through a culture of continuous improvement.

## ITLN Vision

To support an education system in Illinois that enables teacher leaders to increase the quality of leadership and its impact on teaching practices and learning. It recognizes the critical importance that teacher leadership brings to the overall school improvement mission of the school and its personnel.

Teacher leaders will have access to a career path that retains and develops high-performing teachers for leadership roles; formalizes, defines, and builds the competencies necessary for high-quality leadership to improve student learning; and recognizes and encourages shared leadership and decision-making in schools to maximize outcomes for children.



## ITLN Illinois Teacher Leadership Network

Through a proposal to the USDOE Teach to Lead Initiative, the Illinois State Teachers of the Year and Finalists (ILSTOY) convened the Illinois Teacher Leadership Network in May 2015 as a network of leaders representing 23 educational organizations.

# Definitions Teacher Leadership      A Teacher Leader in Illinois

“Teacher leadership is the process by which teachers, individually or collectively, influence their colleagues, principals, and other members of the school community to improve teaching and learning practices with the aim of increased student learning and achievement.”

*York Barr & Duke, 2004*

A teacher leader is a highly effective educator who is trained in the Teacher Leader Model Standards and practices teacher leadership roles in the school, district, region, state, or nation. A teacher leader influences the educational community and mobilizes others to impact improvement of student learning and the profession. A teacher leader assumes either formal or informal leadership roles to impact practice, policy, and advocacy that supports student success in the unique contexts of the educational community served.

A highly effective teacher leader, who is trained and practicing in an informal or formal role shows evidence of performance in one or more of the domains of the Teacher Leader Model Standards unique to the particular teacher leader role.

A teacher leader may show competencies in the any of the Teacher Leader Model Standards:

- Foster a collaborative culture to support educator development and student learning;
- Access and use research to improve practice and student learning; promote professional learning for continuous improvement;
- Promote professional learning for continuous improvement.
- Facilitate improvements in instruction and student learning;
- Promote the appropriate use of assessments and data for school and district improvement;
- Improve outreach and collaboration with families and community;
- Engage in shaping and implementing policy; and advocate for student learning and the