



**New York State Teacher Centers**  
*Public/Private Partnerships*  
Increasing Performance While Lowering the Taxpayer Burden

Take action now to help restore funding for Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers!

New York's Teacher Centers are critical to educators' professional development. They improve the quality of education in the classroom and give our students a better chance to succeed. Yet, over the last few years, lawmakers have slashed state funding of Teacher Centers by half, and in the Governor's proposed budget for 2013-14 funding was completely eliminated! For continued updated information please go to: [http://www.nysut.org/contactelectedofficials\\_16134.htm](http://www.nysut.org/contactelectedofficials_16134.htm)

The legislature has always recognized the importance of development and support initiatives to improve teaching and learning by consistently supporting Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers. Teacher Centers were established by the state Legislature in 1984 to provide comprehensive, ongoing professional development and support services to the state's teachers. The 2010-11 enacted budget eliminated funding for these centers. Now more than ever, investing in education and educational resources is essential not only to our economic recovery, but to continue increasing academic achievement.

Teacher Centers across New York provided thousands of professional development opportunities to approximately 201,000 teachers and over 44,000 other participants who work with our students in our schools. These Centers support programs that ensure educators are exposed to emerging techniques, practices and technologies to be increasingly effective in the classroom. They conduct courses and programs that enable new teachers to satisfy certain professional requirements. They also maximize resources and bring teachers together to enhance their skills and improve student learning.

For years these Centers ran the most successful collaboration in education because they were designed to bring high quality resources to P-16 institutions while increasing student performance. In addition to the \$35 million in funding they received from the state, they leveraged additional in-kind support from outside resources with colleges, universities, museums, youth bureaus, early childhood agencies, and workforce investment boards (WIB). They also collaborated and partnered with corporations like Dell, Intel, Elluminate, Smart, Microsoft, Adobe, Verizon and Google.

Further, by working with these companies and organizations, Teacher Centers leveraged existing purchasing agreements to provide significant savings to property taxpayers. This amounted to \$40 million in grants, teacher contributions and business and industry contributions. Many private corporations and foundations have invested resources to support Teacher Center activities. Without the restoration of funding, all these capacities, relationships and partnerships will soon disappear.

The bottom line is that Teacher Centers work. They improve student achievement and teacher quality. They help eliminate the achievement gap. And they are key to the successful implementation of Race to the Top. Teacher Centers work. We urge you to restore funding for Teacher Centers so we can continue to improve student achievement, teacher quality, and eliminate the achievement gap while helping to decrease the burden on property taxpayers.

Please help rescue funding for these important education resources! Take action now to help restore funding for Teacher Resource and Computer Training Centers!

