



School Support and Excellence Team – Network and school-facing purpose

The Thomas B. Fordham Foundation has created a School Support and Excellence Team, led by Fordham’s Chief Learning Officer. The team’s primary purpose is to support quality implementation of our Instructional Excellence Framework (IEF). As in the past, we will continue to incorporate operational support and technical assistance to schools. Going forward, however, we also intend to have a more focused instructional lens when it comes to site visits, monthly virtual meetings, and optional support.

Site Visits

Fordham conducts biennial site visits (as is our obligation to the state as a sponsor)—while school is in session—for each of the schools we sponsor. During these visits, we partner with networks and schools in service of student learning, focusing specifically on instructional excellence in alignment with the IEF. Site visits will support networks and schools through student data review, observing classroom instruction, analyzing the quality of network/school instructional systems, and creating pathways and plans toward goals in service of superior student achievement.

We will continue to refine our site visit protocols and expect to adapt and improve those visits through conversations and feedback from our portfolio of networks and schools.

Extended Partnership and Services

As part of our commitment to extend support beyond operations, as we work closely with schools and networks to increase student achievement, the School Support and Excellence Team is prepared to offer instructional support services as a part of our role as a sponsor, with no additional cost. These extended partnership services will be at the discretion of the networks and schools, differentiated to meet their needs.

Potential services or partnership can include:

- Professional development for leaders or teachers (in person or virtual)
- Instructional leadership coaching (in person or virtual)
- Instructional systems consulting (in person or virtual)
- Curriculum selection or implementation support
- Thought partnership
- Data analysis meetings
- Follow up walkthroughs

Our purpose is not to impose uniform or formulaic practices on the schools we sponsor but, rather, to differentiate and expand our support to ensure that we partner on what matters most—student learning—aligning instructional systems and practice to what research tells us is most effective, as generally outlined in the IEF.

In practice, this may well look and feel different for each school and network and we look forward to differentiating our support accordingly.