

National Principal Satisfaction With Teach For America Teachers

Source: "Teach For America 2009 National Principal Survey,"
Policy Studies Associates, July 2009

For the past 14 years, Teach For America has conducted independent, external surveys of its partner principals, asking them to evaluate the performance of Teach For America teachers in their schools. The most recent survey was completed in July 2009. As evidenced by the striking statistics that follow, principals express a very high level of satisfaction with Teach For America corps members. They continue to report that Teach For America teachers are well-prepared and have a significant and positive impact on their schools and on student achievement.

Principals report high levels of satisfaction with Teach For America corps members.

- The overwhelming majority (97 percent) are satisfied with the Teach For America teacher(s) working in their schools.
- Nearly all principals (94 percent) report that Teach For America teachers have made a positive impact in their schools.
- 87 percent of principals say they would hire a Teach For America corps member again.
- Most principals (83 percent) report that the impact of corps members on student achievement in their school is excellent or good.
- More than 80 percent of principals say they would be likely to recommend hiring a Teach For America corps member to a colleague, with over half reporting that they would be *very likely* to make such a recommendation.

Most principals rate Teach For America corps members as more effective than other faculty members, and almost none rate them as less effective.

- Nearly all principals (95 percent) rate Teach For America corps members as effective as other beginning teachers in terms of overall performance and impact on student achievement. Two-thirds of principals (66 percent) regard Teach For America teachers as *more effective* compared with other beginning teachers in their schools with respect to their impact on student achievement
- 90 percent of principals consider Teach For America teachers at least as effective as the overall teaching faculty with respect to their impact on student achievement, with 55 percent rating them as *more effective* than the overall teaching faculty.

Most principals rate Teach For America corps members' training as more effective than that of other new teachers.

- Nearly all principals (91 percent) report that corps members' training is at least as good as the training of other beginning teachers.
- Nearly two-thirds of principals (63 percent) rate corps members' training as *better* than that of other beginning teachers.

The vast majority of principals rated corps members as good or excellent on a number of indicators of effective teaching and behaviors that Teach For America believes lead to significant gains in student achievement, including:

- Having high expectations for students (91 percent)
- Setting ambitious goals for student achievement (90 percent)
- Knowledge of the subject matter (89 percent)
- Developing positive relationships with colleagues and administrators (89 percent)

Methodology: The 2009 survey, completed in July 2009 by Policy Studies Associates, included 1,248 principals representing all 29 regions in which Teach For America placed teachers during the 2008-09 school year.