



The CTA Institute for Teaching is attempting to bring a new approach to school change. Based on our work in California schools, with Foundations and from discussions with hundreds of practitioners and students, the IFT has determined that school change must include two key factors: (1) It needs to be teacher-driven and (2) It should be based on what is working and successful in our schools and classrooms. By focusing on what works in our schools, the IFT believes strength-based models for school change add a new dimension to school improvement.

Current IFT Program

• IFT Grant Program

The \$5,000-\$20,000 strength-based grants are designed for pre-K-12 teachers and certificated support staff, ESP members and college instructors. Proposals are reviewed through the lens of IFT's strength-based matrix by an IFT Grant Selection committee composed of outstanding teachers. In the program's first seven years, IFT awarded 262 grants totaling over \$2.9 million.

• Teacher Think Tanks

IFT has organized a diverse set of CTA members to be part of IFT's Regional Teacher Think Tanks. These ten regional Teacher Think Tanks give a voice to dozens of CTA members who are excellent classroom practitioners and passionate about sharing innovative ideas and building upon what works.

• Teacher Innovation Expo

The Expo, presented as part of the pre-Good Teaching Conferences, is designed as a showcase for exemplary IFT Grant recipients to present highlights of their strength-based projects to an audience of fellow teachers. It demonstrates that teachers have the capacity to innovate their practice and profession to connect communities with their classrooms in engaging ways.

• Positive Deviance Project

IFT is seeking volunteers to work on a project designed to increase the high school graduation rate by focusing on those students who are successfully staying in school and thriving despite such social factors as poverty, family problems, crime, and gangs. These outliers are known as "positive deviants."

• Parent-Teacher Home Visit Project

IFT supports home visits because they work and teachers have always done them. That practice has been enhanced with a strategic focus and collaboration dedicated to this proven strategy with positive outcomes for families, staff, and most importantly, students of all grade levels.

• California School Garden Network

IFT supports CSGN's mission to promote school gardens as a means "to enhance academic achievement, a healthy lifestyle, environmental stewardship, and community/social development."

• Strength-Based School Transformation Projects

IFT is looking to engage with members in schoolwide appreciative inquiry projects based on the identified strengths of the local school community. These field-based projects are locally designed and their successful outcomes are critical in demonstrating the efficacy of strength-based teacher driven change.

For more information, please visit the IFT website- www.teacherdrivenchange.org

or join the "CTA Institute for Teaching" community Strength-Based Teacher Driven Change at

<https://strengthbasedhub.org/> on Facebook  and Twitter  @CTAIFT

Strength-Based Teacher Driven Change



What Does It Mean...?

...to YOU? ...to your STUDENTS? ...to our FAMILIES?
...to your SCHOOL? ...to your DISTRICT? ...to our UNION?
...to our PROFESSION? ...to PUBLIC EDUCATION?

Please visit IFT's website- www.teacherdrivenchange.org

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