



Marshall Street





Opening Doors to Collaboration







A COLLECTION OF RESEARCH-TO-IMPACT PRACTICES DEVELOPED WITH THE NETWORKED IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

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Preface

In *Opening Doors to Collaboration: Interdisciplinary practices for building collaboration between general and special education teams*, we share a collection of best practices for improving learning outcomes in secondary students — particularly Black and Latinx students with disabilities experiencing poverty — using collaborative teaming structures between general education and special education staff. The Networked Improvement Community for Students with Disabilities (NIC), a group of 10 public charter school networks serving more than 75,000 students nationwide, identified the best practices through their work between 2019 and 2023.

Led by **Marshall Street** at Summit Public Schools, in partnership with technical assistance providers NIRN, RTI International, SRI International, and SWIFT Education Center, the purpose of the three-year NIC was to systematically improve the way our education system serves Black and Latinx students with disabilities experiencing poverty and share these solutions with school systems everywhere. This report is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The findings and conclusions contained within are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect positions or policies of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The NIC used continuous improvement to translate existing research for improving learning outcomes into best practices and to iterate the practices to ensure they worked in a variety of school contexts.

In ***Opening Doors to Collaboration: Interdisciplinary practices for building collaboration between general and special education teams***, we share the results of this vital work:

- A **literature review**, summarizing the key research related to teacher collaboration
- Three **best practices** that schools used while in the NIC to successfully improve educator collaboration. Each best practice includes:
  - Case studies highlighting how schools in the NIC implemented the practices
  - Step-by-step implementation guidance
  - Key prerequisites and accelerants for successful implementation in any context
- One **case study** that details how one network utilized a best practice within their own unique context
- Two **guidance documents** that provide school and network leadership with recommendations for establishing and maintaining crucial structures that support collaboration

We share these best practices so that any school in the country can leverage the learning from the NIC to accelerate dramatic gains in learning outcomes for their students with disabilities. We hope that administrators and educators across the country can use the stories within this collection to build their school cultures of continuous improvement as well.

Acknowledgments

About Marshall Street

Marshall Street is a division of Summit Public Schools based in Redwood City, California. Marshall draws from more than 15 years of institutional knowledge and extensive experience in school improvement. Through our programs, we increase the capacity of our school partners to carry their work forward in the ways most meaningful to their communities.

Continuous Improvement is a set of principles and practices to help educators "get better at getting better." Marshall's Continuous Improvement team uses these tools to tackle intricate, systems-level problems in K–12 education. From 2019 to 2023, Marshall led a multi-year Networked Improvement Community (NIC) to make dramatic gains in the learning experiences, environments, and outcomes for Black and Latinx students with disabilities experiencing poverty.

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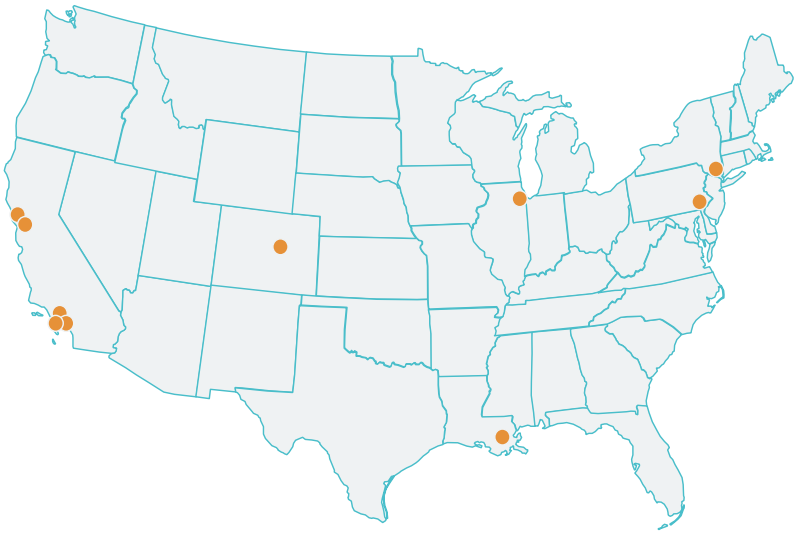
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