

Read about honors and events in TAP Indiana's inaugural newsletter .



April 2015



National Honor

TAP founder Lowell Milken NIET (left) and President Gary Stark (right) present the TAP Award of Distinction to Perry Township Schools' assistant superintendents Robert Bohannon and Vickie Carpenter.

National TAP honor recognizes Perry Township Schools

Perry Township Schools received the TAP™ Award of Distinction at the 15th National TAP Conference in March. The honor recognizes the district's journey since 2011 when it implemented TAP in two of its elementary schools and, based on its effectiveness, later expanded to the entire district.

Perry first put TAP into practice in Title I schools Southport Elementary and Abraham Lincoln Elementary under the Federal TIF grant. That involved approximately 1,400 students and 80 teachers. Then the district chose the TAP Teacher Evaluation

schools, 2 sixth grade academies, 2 middle schools and 2 high schools. It touches approximately 800 teachers and 14,700 students.

Administrators credit TAP with improving student performance and making Perry an “A” district under the Indiana Department of Education’s system. The district’s initiative includes

- cluster professional development that supports each school goal,
- four official evaluations per teacher each year, and
- walk-throughs at each building.

“We are focused each day on ensuring that each student has an effective teacher every period of the day,” said Robert Bohannon, assistant superintendent for career preparation.

[Read More](#)

Indiana TAP™: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement

45 Schools, One Vision

- 1,635 Teachers
- 25,741 Students
- 23 Elementary Schools
- 8 Middle Schools
- 10 High Schools
- 6 Sixth-grade open schools

Schools are located in rural, urban, and suburban areas with high-need student populations where 50% or more qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Five district wide implementation includes those in: Ellettsville, Spencer, Oregon, Decatur, Morgan, and Boone; Clarksville.

Participating schools, both rural and urban, adopted TAP following a 75%+ favorable staff vote.

Testimonials

"... TAP is a powerful force in education that is moving some significant changes... Through TAP we have a framework to which professional development is built and we are required to undergo it, a changing one and that we talk about teaching and changing the way we practice and changing the acceptable performance of our students."

Principal Robert Bohannon, Southport Elementary School, Perry Township, Ellettsville, Indiana

"TAP is making a difference, increasing and supporting teaching skills in these six teaching areas, ensuring more effective and engaged for my students. It will prove a valuable tool in ensuring our students are ready for work in the future."

Grade 5 Teacher, Southport Elementary School, Perry Township, Ellettsville, Indiana

"TAP's impact on my school has been a considerable gain. I think that we have a common language and a common understanding of what we are doing to increase effectiveness and are providing individualized support for teachers."

Principal, Clarksville Elementary School, Boone Township, Boone, Indiana

Teacher Excellence → Student Achievement → Opportunities for All

Indiana TAP Schools Increase in Number and Student Growth/Achievement

Year	% of Indiana TAP schools with scores of 3, 4, or 5 on achievement growth measurement indicating positive student performance	Number of TAP Schools
2011-12	81.4%	37
2012-13	85.2%	40
2013-14	79.2%	40

Logos for University of Indianapolis, Indiana Department of Education, and TAP are included at the bottom.

Indiana TAP has updated its one-page information sheet to use for better understanding of the TAP system and the positive results it brings. [Click here](#) for a printable pdf version of the document.

Milken Winner a Mentor

Perry Township educator and TAP mentor teacher Kelly Wilber was a 2014-15 Milken Educator Award winner. She’s a fifth grade teacher at Southport Elementary school, and you can see a video of her talking about the honor [here.](#)

"TAP has been a wonderful learning experience for me as a building administrator. . . The daily exposure to the quality instruction throughout my building as a result of TAP has been beneficial to all students. TAP is one of the best initiatives that I have been a part of in my entire career."

Tom Gearhart, Principal, Beech Grove Middle School

Summer Training:

Indiana TAP CORE Training - For all *new* TAP administrators, master teachers, and mentor teachers for the 2015-16 school year at the **University of Indianapolis** (unless otherwise noted):

- **TAP Overview, TAP Rubric Introduction, and Evaluation A:** July 16-17, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST
- **Cluster and the TAP Leadership Team:** July 23-24, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST
- **Field Testing:** CHOOSE ONE--July 29 (in Goshen, Indiana), August 7 (Indianapolis), OR September 2 (Indianapolis), 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST
- **Evaluation B, Evaluator Certification Assessment:** September 3-4, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST

For information or to register, [Click Here.](#)

Two-day workshop for Indiana TAP Leadership Teams -

June 22 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and June 23 from 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Sheraton North Keystone Crossing Hotel in Indianapolis.

Workshop topics include:

- Embedding Indiana's New Academic Standards into Key TAP Processes
- Teaching Different Types of Thinking in a Variety of Content Areas and Grade Levels
- Critical Elements for Purposefully Planning Cluster Cycle 1
- Exploring Effective Student Thinking Strategies (strategy "showcase" by grade span)
- TAP Principals Roundtable

Registration information available soon.

National TAP Summer Institutes:

- Charleston, South Carolina: July 13-15
- Phoenix, Arizona: July 20-22

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