

ABSTRACT

TAP Connect will reach almost 750 teachers and leaders in 18 TAP schools, as well as 90 new teacher candidates at Texas Tech University through a partnership between a non-profit organization and a large university – increasing the number of effective educators in high need schools across five Texas districts. *TAP Connect* is driven by an evidence-based, comprehensive model for teachers, teacher candidates, principals and school effectiveness within the context of a school-wide design for competency-based teaching and professional development. The non-profit organization is the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) which developed the TAP System, which has operated across 19 states in 600 schools, impacting 20,000 teachers and 200,000 students.

The proposed *TAP Connect* enhances the traditional TAP model by embedding the strategies of the TAP System into Texas Tech University's teacher preparation curriculum and its Certifications in Literacy/Writing, STEM, and Leadership. The *TAP Connect* proposal expands the success of the TAP System from the K-12 environment into higher education; increases the impact of the traditional TAP System by the use of video-technology; and investigates the impact of the performance pay component of the traditional TAP System.