

INTC RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

May 2012

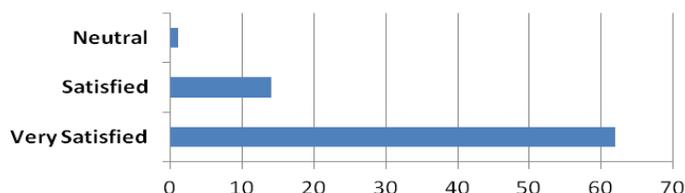
To better understand beginning teachers' professional experiences, INTC conducted a cross-district survey of teachers who had just completed their first year teaching. This research was conducted in June 2011.

Most Valuable Supports for First Year Teachers

Of the most popular mentor/beginning teacher interactions, those surveyed considered it to be "extremely valuable" when the mentor:

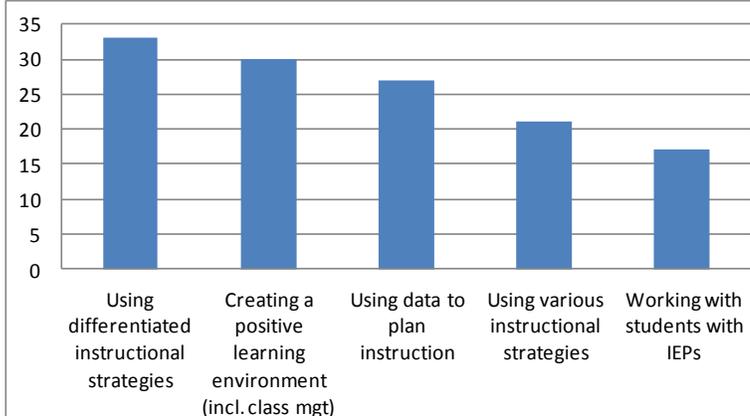
- Observed the beginning teacher and provided feedback on instruction
- Gave the beginning teacher materials
- Planned lessons with the beginning teacher
- Talked with the beginning teacher about strengths and/or needs of specific students
- Discussed instructional issues and problems with the beginning teacher

77 beginning teachers were asked to rate their satisfaction with their career choice. None of the participants indicated dissatisfaction with their decision to become a teacher.



Highlights from Year One

- "I received a ton of support from my mentor and principal. Technology was a huge piece of our instruction and I was provided with an incredible amount of materials, resources, and manipulatives. There were a lot of professional development opportunities for me as a new teacher and lots of feedback provided throughout the year to continuously help me grow."
- "The staff is amazing and very helpful. They were always supportive."
- "My district and building has made my first year a success. My mentor and principal gave me positive criticism and feedback to help me become a stronger teacher. My principal gave me great strategies to help struggling students and deal with difficult parents. I felt comfortable going to anyone in my grade level or any other level for advice."
- "The staff really helped me adjust to the building quickly, which allowed me to focus on my students. I was assigned a mentor through our ROE building, and this mentor has been so wonderful and helpful to me. She is in the classroom next to mine, so I can ask her questions almost anytime that I need to. My first year would have been more difficult without her!"
- "I have developed very good relationships with my coworkers, administrators, students and parents. I had a very positive experience working with a co-teacher. I had a wonderful time taking part in extracurricular activities and curriculum development."



Supporting Beginning Teachers: The research participants were asked to identify the three areas in which they needed the most improvement during their second year of teaching. The chart on the left illustrates the top five areas identified from sixteen options.

The research included 77 participants, all 2011 Beginning Teacher Conference attendees. The 2012 BTC will be held June 26-27 in Champaign.



The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC) is at the forefront of providing statewide leadership for promoting new teacher induction and mentoring programs and supplying resources for those who support new teachers. INTC Online offers resources for preservice teachers, new teaching professionals, teacher mentors, K-12 school administrators, service providers, and higher education professionals.