

# Supporting Teacher Effectiveness

Education leaders across the country are facing profound challenges in their teacher ranks. In a relentless, outcome-focused environment, teachers are grappling with larger classes, reduced budgets, and increasing requirements to demonstrate their effectiveness and professional growth. In response, they are rightly demanding support from their administrations to improve their practice.

Leaders across the nation, themselves increasingly evaluated on their success in driving improvements in student achievement, are struggling to identify evidence-based programs and tools that enable them to realize their goals. While many more “system toolsets” are emerging that collect data and assess teacher quality and effectiveness, few professional tools exist that can be placed directly in the hands of teachers to improve their practice. Though a decade of research has emphatically shown that aligned supports—carefully integrated professional development, curriculum, formative assessments and data analytics—are fundamental to effective teaching practice, few offerings provide that integration. And unlike those for other elite professions, the tools, services and programs provided our nation’s teachers are typically disparate and unaligned: a grab bag of supports that can overwhelm rather than elevate teachers’ instructional efforts.

## Programs:

- Agile Assessment
- Academic Youth Development
- Biology
- Middle School Mathematics
- Intensified Algebra
- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- Precalculus
- AP Calculus
- AP Statistics

At Agile Mind, we understand this. Our company was founded on the premise that instructional leadership is foundational to student success. With our partners at the Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin, we have worked for a decade to develop cohesive, well-aligned resources that teachers can use in the flow of their practice in the classroom, and a means for them to benefit from timely and substantive data about the effect of the instructional decisions they make.

That’s why we offer—in a single place—a **comprehensive, integrated system for teaching and learning** that provides the essentials teachers need to transform their instructional practice: job-embedded professional development, curriculum and instructional resources, powerful tools to increase student commitment to learning, formative assessments, test preparation, and real-time analytics and reporting. Our programs put elite tools into the hands of teachers, helping them improve their effectiveness while increasing their professional satisfaction.

## A complete support system for teachers

The heart of our mission is to support instructional leadership—of individual teachers and teacher teams—in every dimension of their practice. Agile Mind services are organized to support the principal dimensions of all major teacher evaluation rubrics. For example, our toolsets directly support the key elements of the Charlotte Danielson framework: Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment, Instruction, and Professional Responsibilities:

### 1. Planning for successful teaching

Agile Mind offers teachers ongoing professional development support—both face-to-face and online—to help them plan and enact each day of instruction. Teachers receive mentoring by exemplary educators and continuous access to data on how their instructional decisions affect student work. Every topic in every program is accompanied by detailed advice on strategies for planning each lesson, framing questions, exploring key concepts, and differentiating instruction for learners with diverse needs. Built on Dana Center research, this real-time support is designed to respect the experience of educators, who liken it to advice they would receive from a trusted colleague. Embedded test preparation enables teachers to monitor student progress toward mastery of content described in national and state standards and to act in the moment to redirect instruction as needed.



## 2. Creating a productive classroom environment

Through Agile Mind programs, teachers are equipped to introduce stimulating and interactive content, anchored in the standards, every day. They can do this in multiple ways to engage students and to help them develop deeper understanding through real-world scenarios that connect to their experiences. Our programs support effective strategies and routines that create a classroom environment in which students work collaboratively and are motivated to participate in the demanding work of learning. Throughout, teachers receive explicit guidance on enhancing student engagement and persistence in challenging courses—without interrupting the flow of instruction—and on flexibly differentiating instruction in response to their students' understanding. Through these processes, students develop the knowledge and skills needed for academic success.

## 3. Improving Instruction

With access to more than 1000 research-based problems and hundreds of additional instructional tasks in our programs, teachers can enable students to master challenging concepts in mathematics and science. By working on highly scaffolded but challenging tasks, students learn to make connections and develop deep learning on their own. Student work is automatically graded and reported in real time, taking teachers out of the business of chasing papers and into the business of using data to shape their work and that of their students—activities only educators can lead. Our ongoing coaching helps math and science teachers improve the classroom activities they design, how they explain and illustrate difficult concepts, and the kinds of questions they ask of students. By approaching learning conceptually, teachers can ensure that students build a strong foundational understanding of mathematics, retain knowledge longer, and work toward mastery faster.

## 4. Meeting professional responsibilities

Our highest priority is to facilitate teachers' efforts to grow as professionals. Our data analytics and reporting help teachers maintain accurate records and communicate with their students and their students' families. Our online professional materials—available 24/7 and encompassing advice for instruction, professional essays, and videos of high-yield teaching practices—enable teachers to manage their demanding workloads while conveniently accessing opportunities to reflect on their teaching practice and to grow professionally. Our professional development institutes, customized face-to-face mentor visits, and virtual webinars provide opportunities for teachers to participate in a professional community, to develop professionally, and to demonstrate their professionalism.

## Results in districts like yours

Agile Mind's system for teaching and learning, developed in collaboration with some of the nation's leading experts in STEM education, supports key research-based concepts of teacher effectiveness that have been demonstrated to contribute to significant gains in student learning. We have helped hundreds of districts over the past decade to achieve dramatic improvements in student learning—a testament to the long-term benefits of investing not only in learners but also in the educators who serve them, and in their continuing professional growth.

**Agile educators. Agile learners. Agile tools to support high achievement.**



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**Agile Mind** is committed to enhancing equity and high achievement in mathematics and science in our nation's middle and high schools. Founded in 2002, the company works in collaboration with leading educators to develop comprehensive programs, tools and services that enable educators and education systems to support rigorous instructional experiences for all students. Agile Mind offers comprehensive programs—encompassing job-embedded professional development, curricula, formative assessment, and data analytics and reporting—for middle school mathematics through AP Calculus and Statistics, as well as high school Biology and a unique family of programs designed to enhance students' persistence, effective effort, and growth mindsets.