



GLISI

Georgia Leadership Institute
for School Improvement



***Engagement for Success:
The GLISI Impact Story
2008-2009***

Report prepared under contract with the University of Georgia Research Foundation by:

- Dr. Wendy Ruona, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Human Resource & Organization Development Programs, College of Education, University of Georgia
- Ms. Tracy Elder, Education Policy and Evaluation Center, College of Education, University of Georgia

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of Georgia was contracted by the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) to conduct a meta-analysis of *Success Cases*. Dr. Wendy Ruona, Associate Professor of Human Resource Development (<http://www.coe.uga.edu/leap/adulted/index.html>), and Tracy Elder of the Education Policy and Evaluation Center of the College of Education (<http://www.coe.uga.edu/EPEC/>) contributed to the project and meta-analysis. The report was finalized in September, 2009 and is available upon request. Please contact GLISI evaluation through Becky Shaver at becky.shaver@glisi.org.

This report details a meta-analysis of 15 *Success Cases* developed by GLISI staff during Winter-Spring, 2009 after being trained on the *Success Case Method* by Dr. Wendy Ruona. The aim of the report was to learn from GLISI's work; specifically, (1) to explore the impact that GLISI is having in the state of Georgia and (2) to identify the Accelerators and Barriers to the GLISI work. GLISI will use the data to inform its work and its internal continuous improvement process.

The full report offers re-constructed versions of *Impact Models* for each of the 15 cases, and utilizes those models as the basis for the analysis.

Findings indicate that GLISI's programming is clearly achieving its intended impact (as defined by its core strategies). Specifically, two overarching impact areas were evident in all of the 15 cases analyzed. Those were: (1) *systemic improvement through a systematic approach* and (2) the *quantity and quality of leaders* developed through GLISI programs. In addition, 9 of the 15 *Success Cases* reveal districts which are successfully impacting student achievement or clearly showing the potential to bring about positive results.

Finally, each *Success Case* is also analyzed to identify themes around what helped and what hindered the GLISI initiative(s) that the districts were implementing. *Information/Capacity* and *Governance/Sponsorship* are clearly factors that are vital to successful implementation of GLISI interventions. These were consistently identified as key *Accelerators* or as *Barriers* if they were absent.