

LETTER

The Quality of Teachers

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To the Editor:

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Op-Ed Columnist: Education's
Ground Zero (March 22, 2009)

Re "Education's Ground Zero," by
Nicholas D. Kristof (column,
March 22):

While many of us understand the important role that district leaders serve in improving education, education reform will not be taken to scale by one superintendent or one school district.

Effective school leaders from all sectors — charter schools, district-operated schools and private schools — recognize the importance of teacher quality in achieving systemic reform.

Data show that large student achievement gains in Boston, San Diego, Seattle, Albany, Atlanta and a Minneapolis desegregation initiative have been the product of coherent, sustained investments in professional development for teachers.



Too often, ideology has distracted decision makers from using these data to shape the long-term policies and programs that produce success for all students.

What should be recognized is the importance of the relentless, steady work of sustained interventions that are succeeding in many American urban districts.

Eric J. Cooper

Stamford, Conn., March 23, 2009

The writer is president of the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education.

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