

Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
**Innocent Classroom in Saint Paul Public Schools**

June 11, 2018

**Innocent Classroom training reduces referrals in St. Paul Public Schools.** Innocent Classroom has worked with almost 700 educators in St. Paul Public Schools to make significant strides to rebuild the relationship between educators and their students, especially students of color.

*Constructing the Innocent Classroom* (a program of Innocent Technologies, LLC) undoes the damage that results from popular negative narratives, unconscious and implicit bias, stereotype threat, and stereotype consciousness. It teaches educators how to better see the students before them and make spaces where each student, regardless of identity and background, can flourish.

Since 2015, Innocent Classroom has trained almost 700 St. Paul Public Schools educators in Innocent Classroom programs. This partnership meets St. Paul Public Schools' racial equity goals as it has reduced disparities in behavior referrals and, in some cases, improved academic achievement.

*"It's almost instantaneous. That conversation happens after the first session of the training... I started to change the way I spoke and the way I thought, the way I was approaching children, and families, all of the people who enter the building."* – Principal, St. Paul Public Schools

### **Impact of Innocent Classroom**

Between Spring 2015 and Spring 2018, St. Paul Public Schools has seen significant results with those who have participated in Innocent Classroom workshops. Educators who completed Innocent Classroom reported the following:

- Respondents reported a 53.2% decrease in referrals out of the classroom as a result of their participation in *Constructing the Innocent Classroom*.
- 90.1% of respondents saw an increase in academic mindset when they used strategies to engage a child's good. (Academic mindset is defined by University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research as a child's belief of belonging in the academic community, belief in one's ability to succeed, or belief that ability and competence grow with effort.)
- 72.7% of respondents had a more positive daily outlook as a result of participating in *Constructing the Innocent Classroom*.

Innocent Technologies has offered open cohorts where teachers opt-in to the training as well as worked in five specific schools in St. Paul where most teachers went through the training. Two of those schools are within the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood. **The next Innocent Classroom cohort in St. Paul begins June 12, 2018.**

For articles about Innocent Technologies' work, including in the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood/Wilder Foundation and The Heights Community School visit, <http://innocentclassroom.com/media/>.

### **About Innocent Technologies, LLC**

Innocent Classroom teacher training is a child-specific response to diverse classrooms. It rebuilds the relationship between educators and their students, especially students of color. Our

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workshops equip teachers with understanding and practical strategies to connect with every child – and to channel those relationships into learning and growth. Since author and educator Alex Pate’s creation of the Innocent Classroom teacher training in 2012, Innocent Technologies has trained over 3000 educators in school districts across the country. Visit our website at [www.innocentclassroom.com](http://www.innocentclassroom.com).

**Contact:** Adebisi A. Wilson, Esq., Vice President, Innocent Technologies, LLC, 275 Market Street, Suite 280, Minneapolis, MN 55405, Phone: 612.927.2277, [adebisi@innocenttech.com](mailto:adebisi@innocenttech.com).