

Enabling Conditions & Core Capacities:

Unpacking the Black Box of Continuous Improvement

PACE Annual Conference
February 7, 2020
Sacramento, California

@edpolicyinca



#2020PACE

Agenda

- Overview of Enabling Conditions and Capacities Framework
- Panelist presentations
- Panelist Q&A
- Table conversations
- Table share out

Presenters and Panelists

- Alix Gallagher, Director of Research Practice Partnerships, PACE
- Hayin Kimner, PACE
- Kelsey Krausen, Senior Engagement Manager, WestEd
- Malati Gopal, Improvement Facilitator/Analyst, Fresno Unified School District (FUSD)
- Lynn Rocha-Salazar, Principal, Ayer Elementary School (FUSD)
- Jorge Aguilar, Superintendent, Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD)
- Dr. Ed Manansala, County Superintendent of Schools, El Dorado County Office of Education

Enabling Conditions and Core Capacities for Improvement

- Hayin Kimner, PACE
- Kelsey Krausen, WestEd

Continuous Improvement – why is it so hard?

- Schools and districts that are “in most need” of improvement are often the least resourced and supported to do so.
- Enabling conditions: What are the **characteristics of organizations** that are successful at Continuous Improvement?
- Capacity framework: If the goal of the System of Support is to build capacity at all levels of the system, **what capacities are most important** to focus on developing?
- Where we looked
 - Literature review
 - Practitioner review

The Enabling Conditions

Shared Purpose

- Student-centered
- Equity
- Differentiated roles
- Sense of urgency
- Constancy of Purpose

Culture of Mutual Trust, Collaborative Learning & Support

- Mutual trust and productive conflict
- Leading by example
- Inquiry and collaboration
- Support, not mandate

Structures that Foster Collaborative Work

- Protected time and effective process
- Improvement resources: guidance, funding, staffing, DATA!
- Breaking down silos
- Improvement team/infrastructure
- Engagement resources

Preparation to Build & Mobilize Improvement Capabilities

- Identified set of skills
- Role assignment
- Professional learning

An Identified Set of Skills and Knowledge

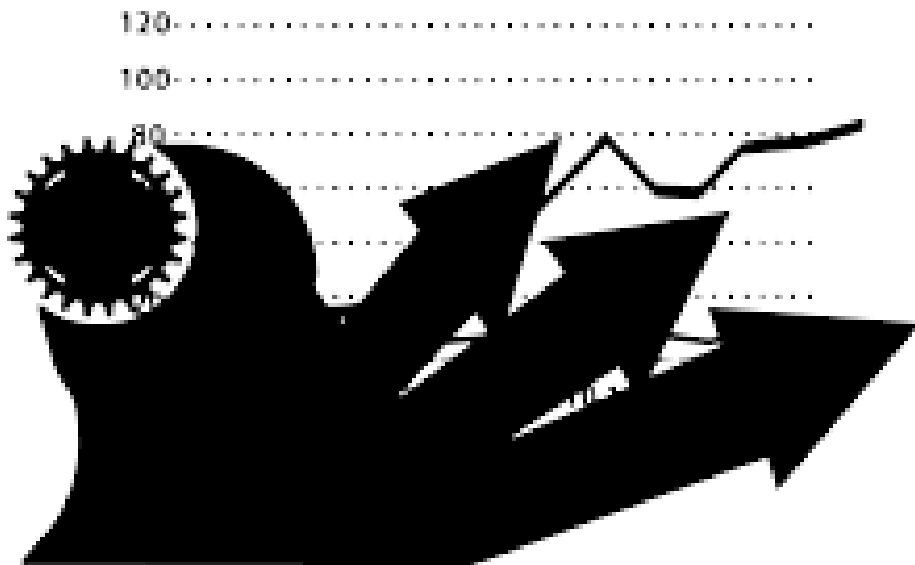
Why is it important to define capacities?

- California's system of support is designed to build local "capacity to sustain improvement"
- The set of capacities necessary have not been defined *yet*
- A way to measure progress

What does the capacity framework outline?

- Roles/responsibilities
- Capacities at each level
- Connection between roles and capacities, and system of support goals

Why Enabling Conditions AND Capacities?



A Capacity Framework Built around Primary Role in the System of Support

DRAFT: February 2020

State

- Active participation & collaboration on the Coordination Team.
- Provide DA to eligible COEs.
- Connect LEAs to resources.
- Align state funding and policies.
- Clarify and disseminate information on the System of Support.

County

- Build the capacity of all LEAs in the county to improve student outcomes (Level 1).
- Provide DA to LEAs to build local capacity to improve student outcomes (Level 2).
- Lead and sustain improvement efforts for county-run schools.

District

- Support schools to improve student outcomes.
- Partner with support providers to strengthen improvement efforts.
- Formulate improvement plans, and use the LCAP to document goals, needs, and programs.
- Sustain improvement efforts.

School

- Meet the learning needs of every student.
- Address disparities in learning opportunities and outcomes.
- Sustain improvement efforts.



Issues for Further Thought

- Assumes support happens in one direction – from state to county, from county to district, etc.
- In a dynamic system, where do you start to build conditions and capacities?
- Where are the tension-points in the “local control” of continuous improvement?
- Implications for policy and budget? Investments in innovation and capacity-building?

Next Steps

- Gather additional practitioner input, starting today
- Add “look-fors”
- Develop ways to measure capacity

Turn and Talk

- What stood out to you in the framework?
- What might you change? What's missing?
- Where can you see this being used? How might it be helpful?
- Who might we talk to to learn more about this? Where might we "test" this?



Facilitating Continuous Improvement for Promoting Agency and Efficacy

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The Enabling Conditions

Shared Purpose

- Teacher-centered – side by side learning
- Equity & Access – Issues of Race
- Differentiated roles – access to experts
- Sense of urgency – “Dissatisfaction is fuel.”
- Constancy of Purpose – Invitational – go with the goers and use the team to move the team

Culture of Mutual Trust, Collaborative Learning & Support

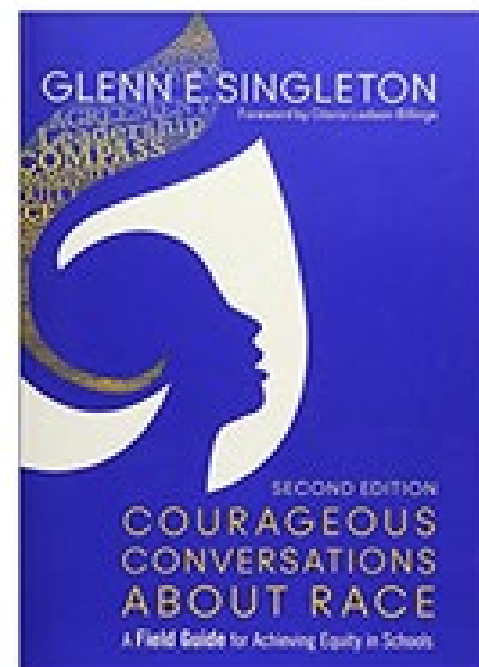
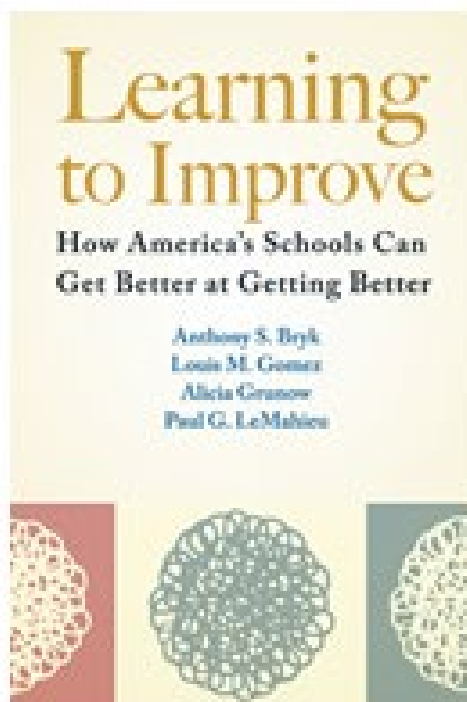
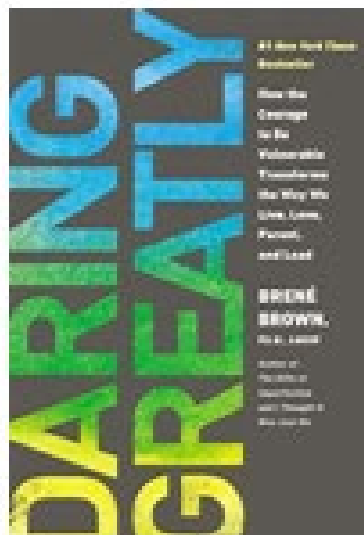
- Mutual trust and productive conflict – Daring Greatly – Psychological Safety – Man in the Arena
- Leading by example – humility & vulnerability
- Inquiry and collaboration – Quick Wins
- Support, not mandate - Coaching (IS/Content)

Structures that Foster Collaborative Work

- Protected time and effective process
- Improvement resources: guidance, funding, staffing, DATA!
- Breaking down silos- intentionally not job-alikes
- Improvement team/infrastructure
- Engagement resources & tools

Preparation to Build & Mobilize Improvement Capabilities

- Identified set of skills - Mindsets
- Role assignment – Project Sponsor/facilitator
- Professional learning – Leader, Teachers & Coaches
- Learning by Doing



It's not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man

who is actually in the arena,

whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again,

because there is not effort without error and shortcoming;

but who does actually strive to do the deeds;

who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions;

who spends himself in a worthy cause;

who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails,

at least he fails while

daring greatly...

Theodore Roosevelt

Principal 2.0

#learning2leaddifferently

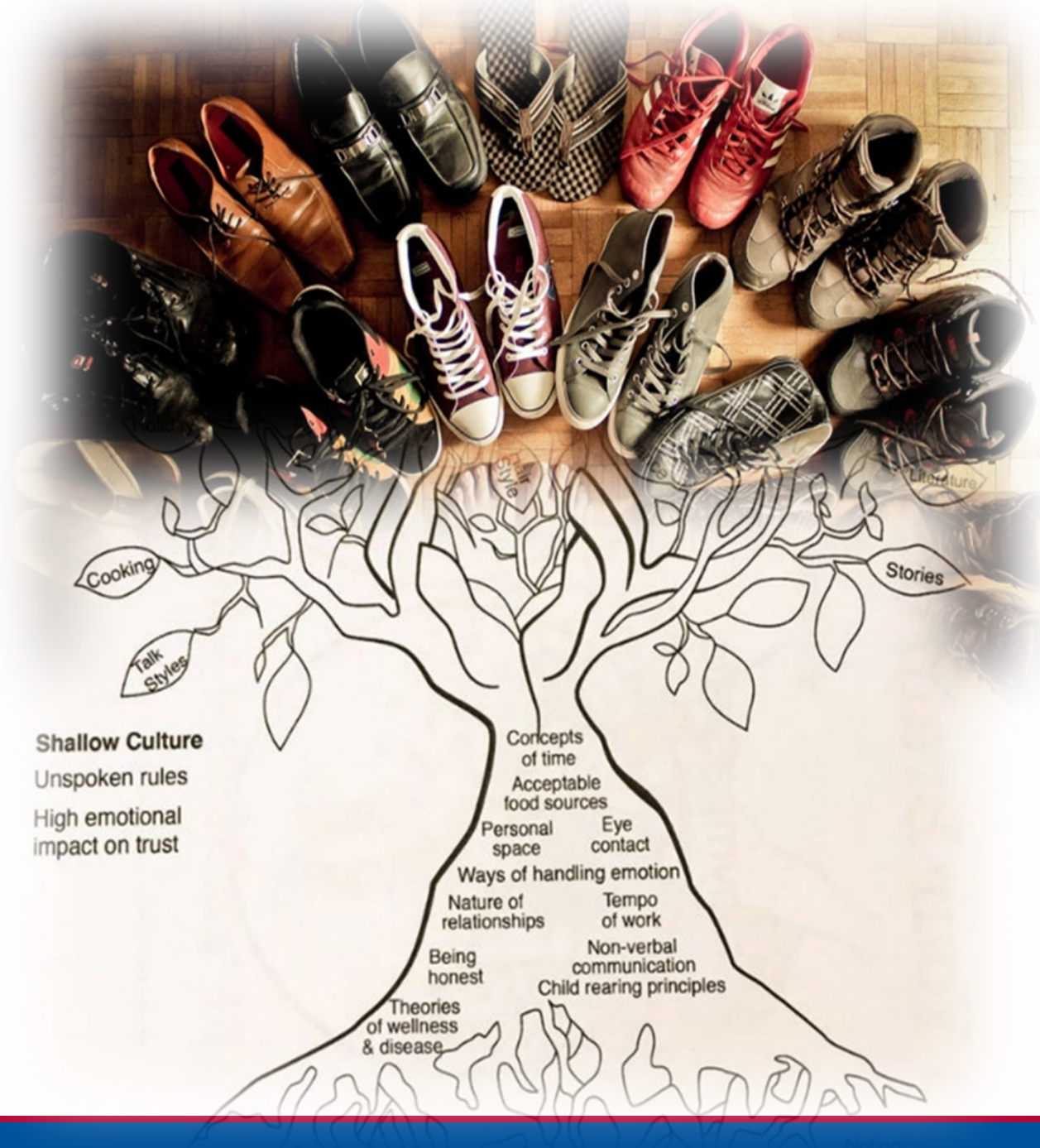
2017-2018

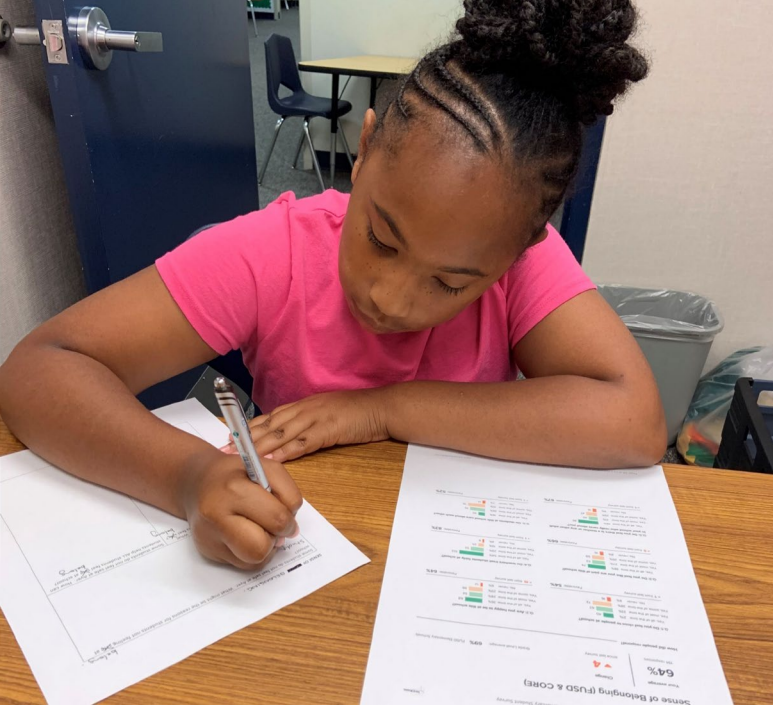
*“If you weren’t afraid of change,
what could you learn?
If you weren’t afraid of rejection,
what would you teach?”*

Each of us is becoming, becoming something better or something worse. We become what we teach and what we learn.”

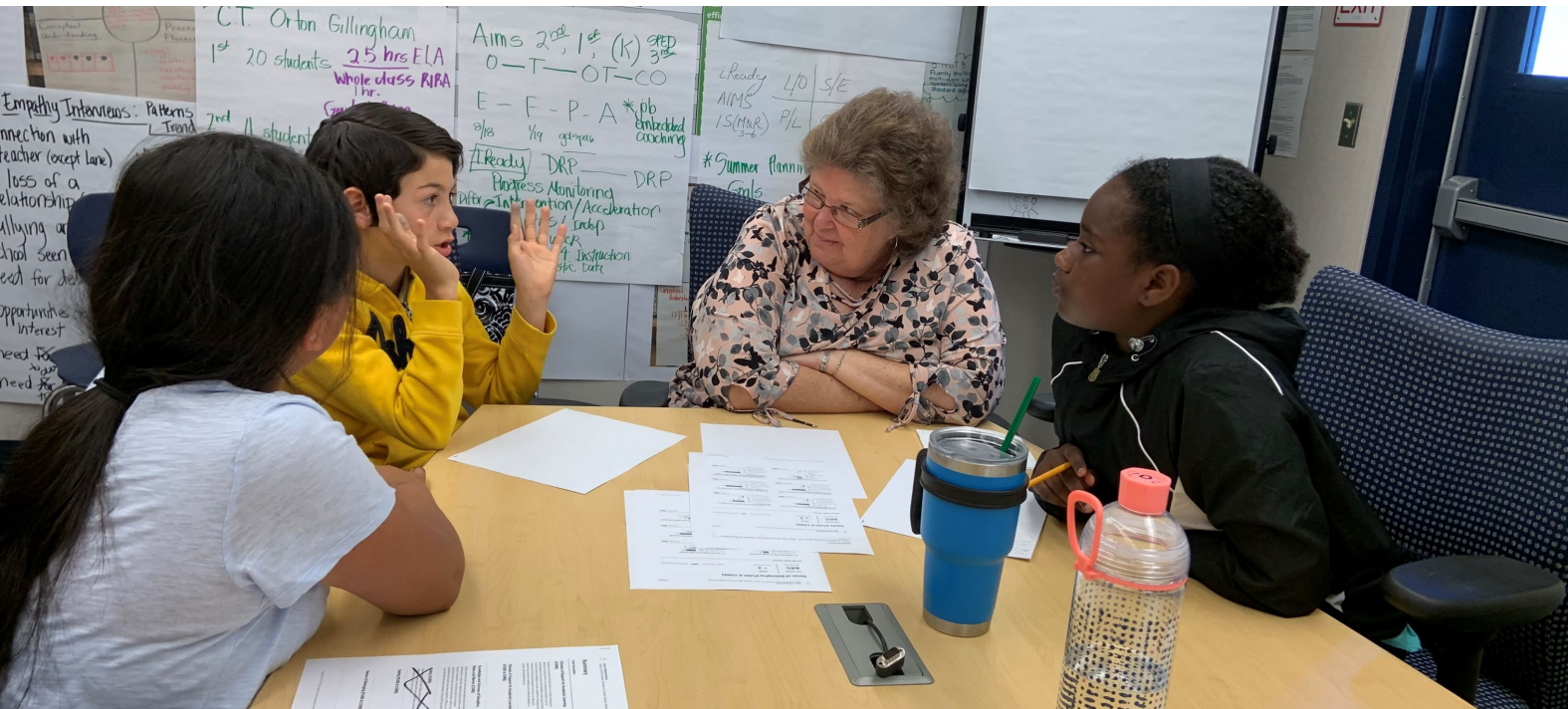
- Seth Godin

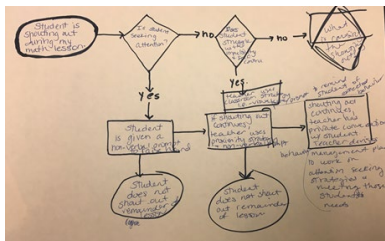
- Empathy Interviews – Teacher Led
- Mapping of Individual Cultural Frames





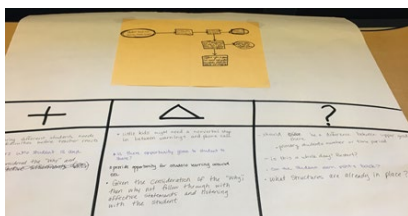
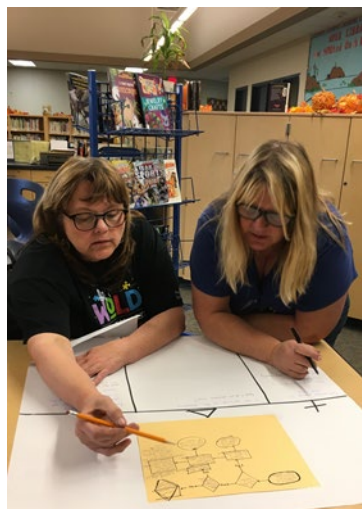
Stakeholder Voice





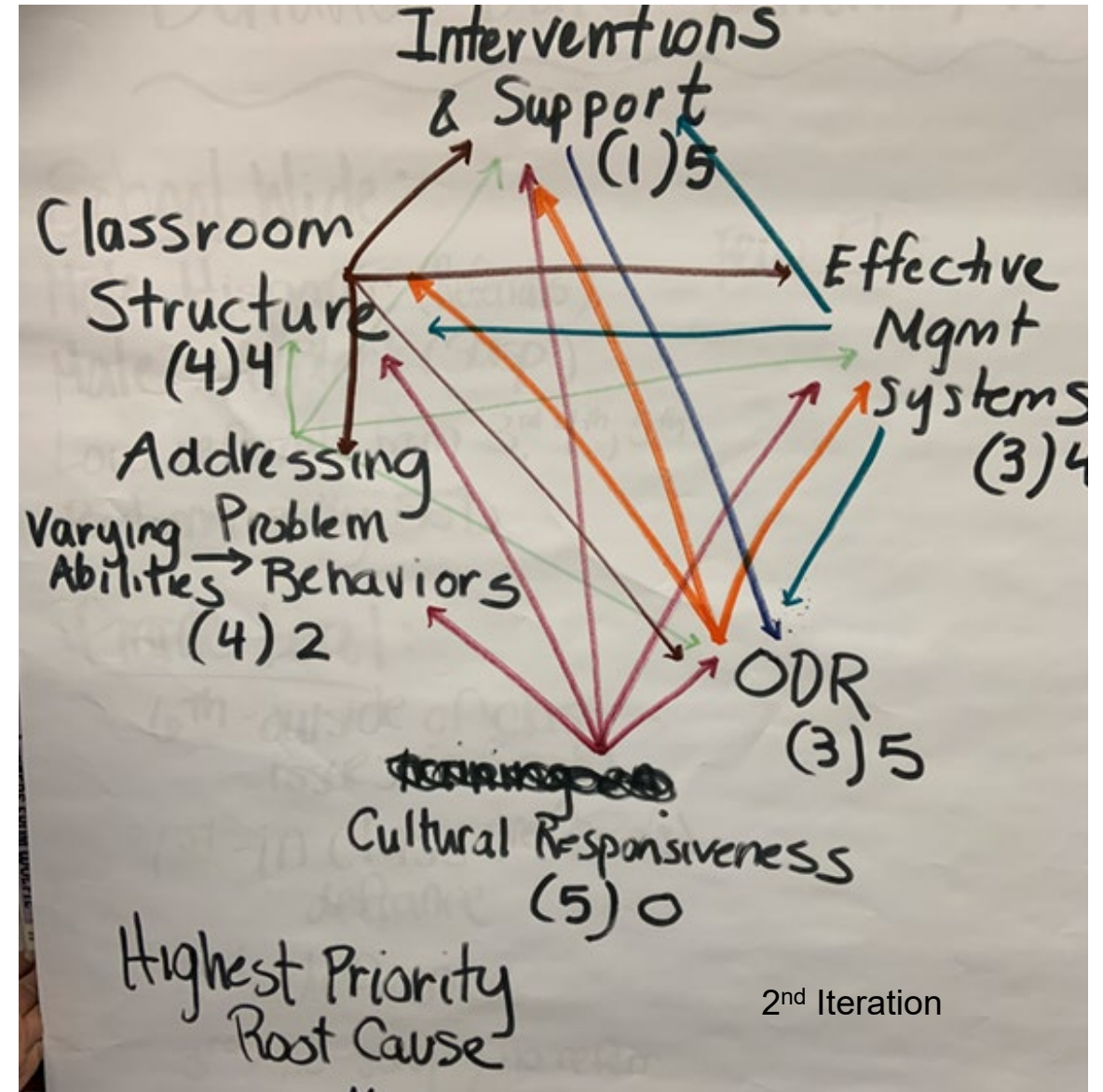
Teachers look within

- Teachers illustrate their practice
- Teachers analyze their practice
- Teachers identify the gaps/challenges
- Teachers discover the *real* problem/issue to address



TRANSFORMATIONAL SHIFTS IN TEACHER BELIEFS AS A RESULT OF ITERATIVE DIALOGUE

- Misbehaviors are manifestations of disengagement and behavior is “communication”
- Response to misbehavior is influenced by adult cultural frames
- Response to misbehavior can be transformative and restorative only when there is a “non-contingent, safe and trusting relationship”



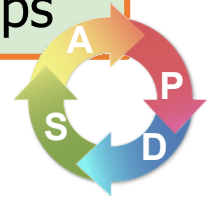
Transformational Change Idea

If we use **2X10** to cultivate positive relationship with students that pose behavior challenge in class...

...which in turn will lead to improved student engagement and behavior in classroom and **reduced office referrals.**

...then students' will **feel valued, respected, and experience sense of belonging ...**

Use 2X10 strategy for cultivating relationships



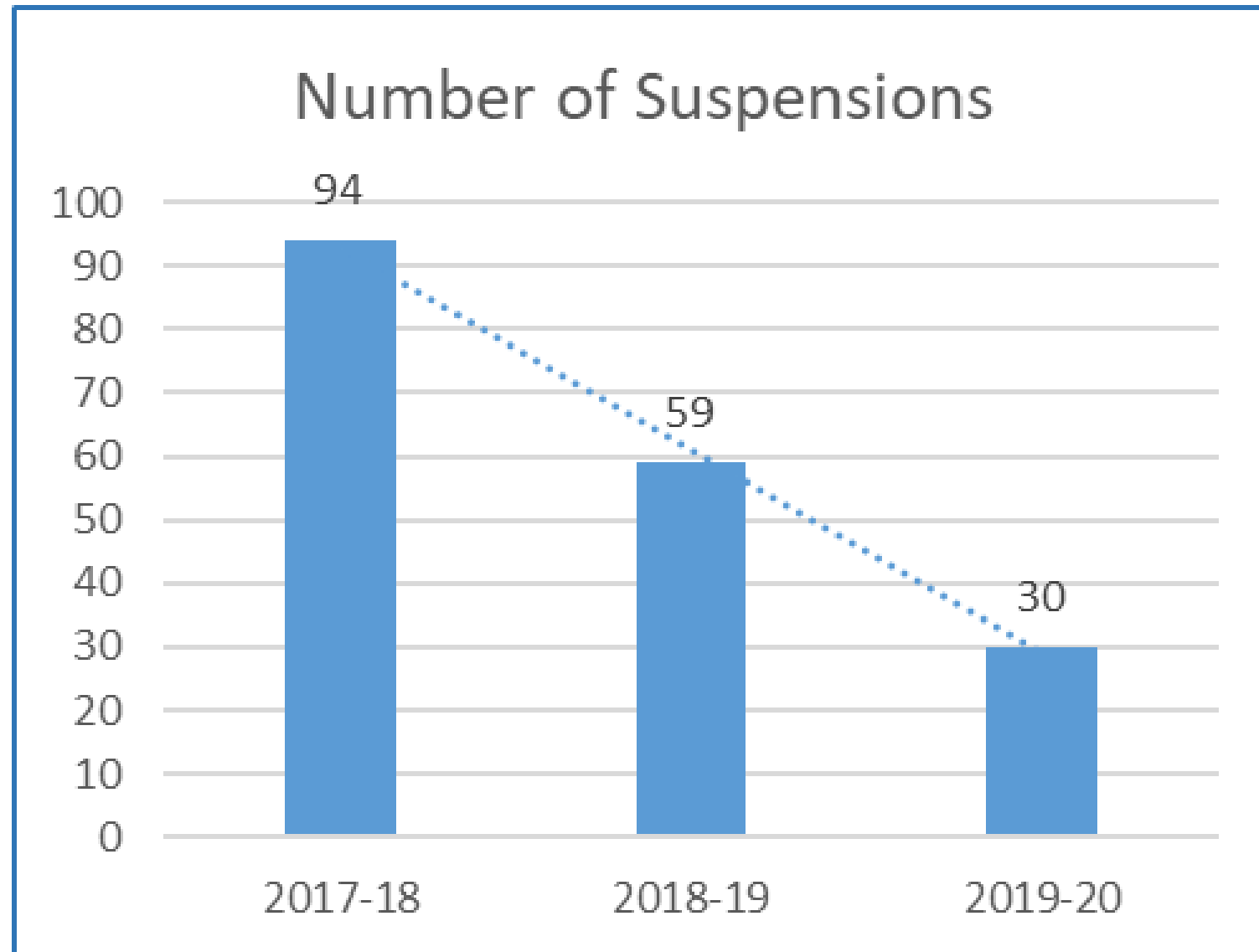
Student Sense of Value and Belonging

Improved Behavior and Decreased Office Referrals

An illustration featuring two stylized characters, likely teachers, against a light purple background. On the left is a character with blonde hair, a pink face, and a white shirt with a blue tie. On the right is a character with grey hair, a brown face, and a pink shirt. Between them are two white speech bubbles. The top bubble contains a laptop icon, and the bottom bubble contains a tablet icon. The text 'MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT: Teachers Share Their Story to Enlist Other Teachers' is overlaid on the image in a dark, sans-serif font.

MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT: Teachers Share Their Story to Enlist Other Teachers

Our New Reality



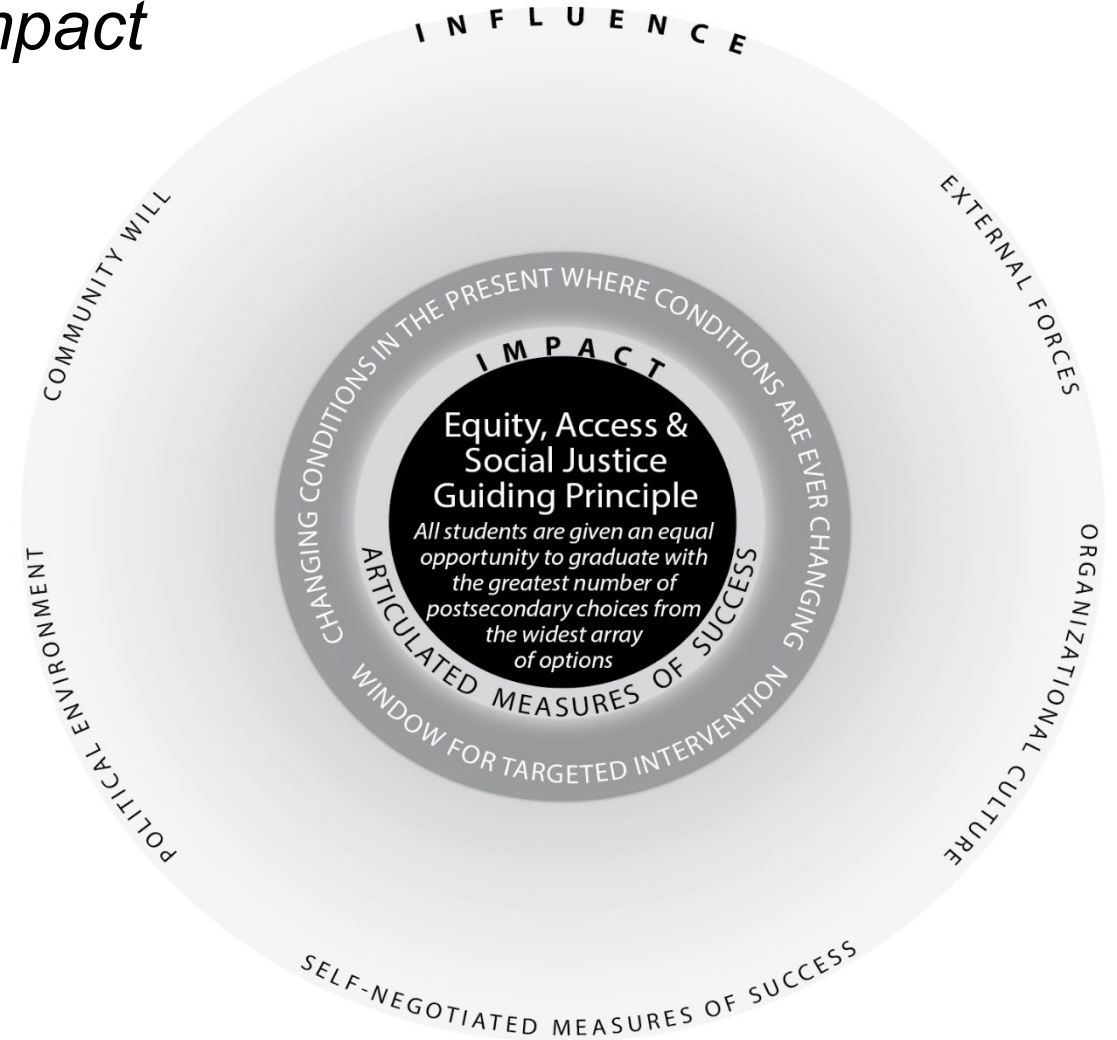
Sacramento City Unified School District

- Jorge Aguilar, Superintendent



Cultural Artifacts

- Not owning the problem - *Influence vs. Impact*
- “This too shall pass” mindset
- Endure and Exit” mindset
- “Prove versus Improve” mindset
- Relational Capacity
- Avoiding Dissonance
- Mechanistic or vernacular approach to Continuous Improvement without accompanying Continuous Improvement mindset shift



What does Continuous Improvement look like at the County Office of Education Level?



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Every school-community
has ambitious goals for
their students!

Three Major Shifts for COEs to Fulfill a Capacity-Building Responsibility

1. Shared Responsibility
2. Experience & Lead Through Continuous Improvement
3. Break Down Silos & Use Reliable and Timely Data

The Enabling Conditions Framework

1. Shared Purpose
2. Culture of Trust
3. Structures of Collaboration
4. Build & Mobilize Improvement Capabilities



Panelist Q&A

Table conversation

- **How do you ensure that the enabling conditions/capacities are in place** -- and sustainable -- at the school, district, and county levels? What kinds of supports or resources are needed? For whom? From whom?
- **What are the things that “get in the way”** of the enabling conditions at the school, district, county level?
- **What is YOUR role** in supporting these enabling conditions/capacities? Any AHAs or things that are particularly compelling for your work?

Group Shareout

Next up...!

- Quick break: coffee, tea, and snacks
- Be back downstairs in the Magnolia Ballroom by **3:00pm** for the closing keynote: *Paul Tough*