Planning Matters: Schoolwide Reform Strategies and Resources

The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement

Objectives

➢ Learn about The Center and its resources available at no-cost to schools, districts, and states

➢ Acquire the *School Review Process Guide* and supporting resources

➢ Discuss research and best practices in school improvement

Ground Rules and Tools

- Record questions and suggestions on index cards
- Share examples from your experiences
- Place electronic devices on vibrate
- Self-break when needed

- *School Review Process Guide*
- Supporting materials
- Post-Its
- Highlighters
- Index cards

What Is The Center?

➢ Based in D.C., The Center is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education

➢ The Center was connected with the past federal Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) program

➢ We are neutral—all materials and activities are research based

➢ Learning Point Associates, based in Naperville, Illinois, administers our work

➢ All services are provided at no cost

Our Mission

The Center's mission is to help schools and districts organize, plan, implement, and sustain improvement.

Who Is The Center?

➢ Stephanie Wood-Garnett, Director

➢ Winsome Waite, Senior Program Associate

➢ Abner Oakes, Senior Program Associate

➢ Carolyn Brown, Director of Research

➢ Traci Maday, Program Associate

➢ Ladan Rahnema, Program Associate

➢ Doreen Suguitan, Executive Assistant

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Our Products and Services

➢ Ask-the-Expert service

➢ Research-based materials

➢ District-level and state-level technical assistance

➢ Self-administered school review tool

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Ask-the-Expert

➤ From Louisiana: "I'm looking for … research or data … on (1) the number of and (2) the success rates related to school performance/improvement of charter schools that are run by local organizations/persons compared to charter school that are operated by national organizations (Edison schools, KIPP, etc.)."

Ask-the-Expert

➢ From California: "Do you have specific studies about STEM schools?"

➢ From Pennsylvania: "We're searching for a comprehensive middle school reading program that is flexible enough to use with all levels. Of course, it must be research based. I'm not finding any out there. Do you know of any?"

Our Materials

- Newsletters
- Issue Briefs
- Research Briefs
- Policy Briefs
- Webcasts and DVDs of those webcasts

Our Newsletters

- Practitioner friendly
- Current and topical
- About 1,500 words
- Useful for a school-based professional development session, PLC-based conversation, or …

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Titles of Selected Newsletters

➤ *Response to Intervention: Possibilities for Service Delivery at the Secondary School Level*

➤ *Stuck in the Middle: Strategies to Engage Middle-Level Learners*

➤ *Getting to "Got It!" Helping Mathematics Students Reach Deep Understanding*

➤ *Serving Recent Immigrant Students Through School-Community Partnerships*

➤ *Maximizing the Impact of Teacher Collaboration*

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The Center's Webcasts

The Webcast on Algebra

➢ "Yes, I found the webcast useful. … Many of the topics that you hit are areas which have been big discussion topics in my workshops. … This was good because it reinforces what I am working on in northern Michigan. … Thank you again for the time you put into the webcast. It allows access to quality discussions for people like me that are somewhat isolated."

  ▪ Judy Falk, GIS Teacher, Gaylord (Michigan) Community Schools

Technical Assistance Examples

➢ Supporting an urban school district in corrective action with a group of schools in restructuring

➢ Supporting a school system that is struggling to appropriately serve its Native American students

➢ Supporting several school districts whose changing demographics have led to an increased number of culturally or linguistically diverse students

➢ Supporting turn-around leaders who have assumed the leadership of struggling schools

School Review Process Guide

➤ A research-based guide for school improvement planning

➤ An easy-to-follow, systematic process for schools to collect and analyze data and plan for school improvement—without having to employ consultants
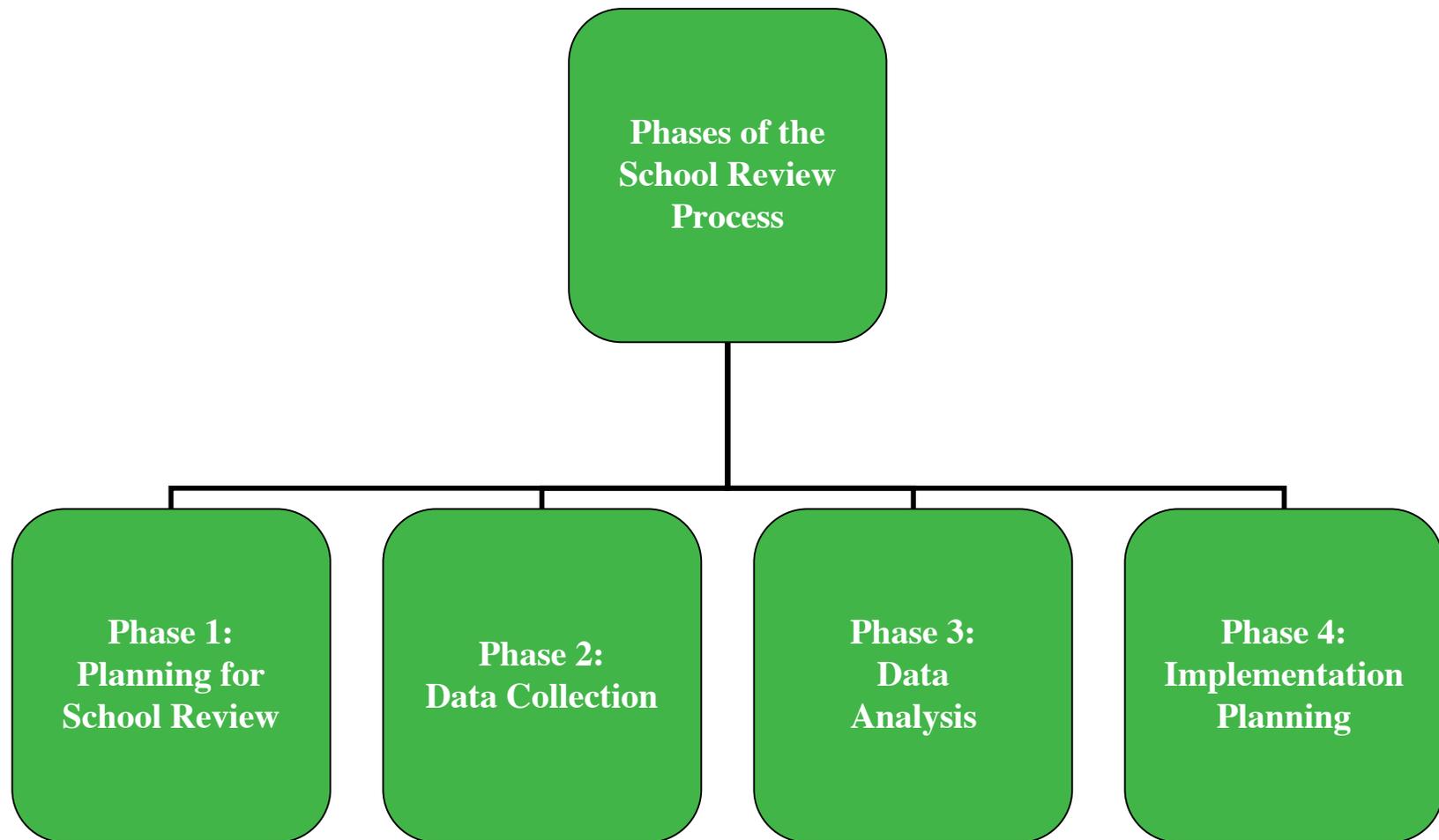
But Before We Continue ...

> Does the school reform world need another school review tool or school review process?

What Is The Center's School Review Process?

➤ This process begins by asking school improvement teams to evaluate their school's strengths and weaknesses

➤ School improvement team members gather and analyze key data

➤ Teams use the data to develop and implement school improvement practices

➤ These activities are organized into four phases

Phases of the School Review Process

Phases of the School Review Process

| Phase 1: Planning for School Review | Phase 2: Data Collection | Phase 3: Data Analysis | Phase 4: Implementation Planning |

Based on Six Research-Supported Quality Indicators for Successful Schools

➢ Aligned and rigorous curriculum

➢ Effective instructional practices

➢ Use of assessment and analysis of student performance data

➢ Positive school culture focused on achievement

➢ Effective school leadership

➢ Parental and community engagement

Phase I

Planning for School Review

Phase 1: Planning for School Review

➤ School leadership **prepares** for the review process

➤ Establishes the improvement **team**

➤ **Begins** this important work

Phase 1: Planning for School Review
First: Prepare

➢ Consider and articulate the school review's purpose

➢ Articulate the school's vision and mission

➢ Establish the team—name its leader—invite team members

➢ Articulate the team's expectations, responsibilities, and resources

Phase 1: Planning for School Review
Second: Team

- Convene the first meeting
- Review mission and vision development
- Determine procedures for engaging in the review process

Phase 1: Planning for School Review
Third: Begin

➢ Share knowledge
➢ Determine the process tasks
➢ Move forward in the review process

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Look at a Tool From Phase 1

➤ See the tool, Strengths and Areas for Improving Student Achievement, p.20

➤ Take a moment at your table—jot down a few ideas in each column

➤ Share with your tablemates what you've written

➤ Have someone from each table share out commonalities to the larger group

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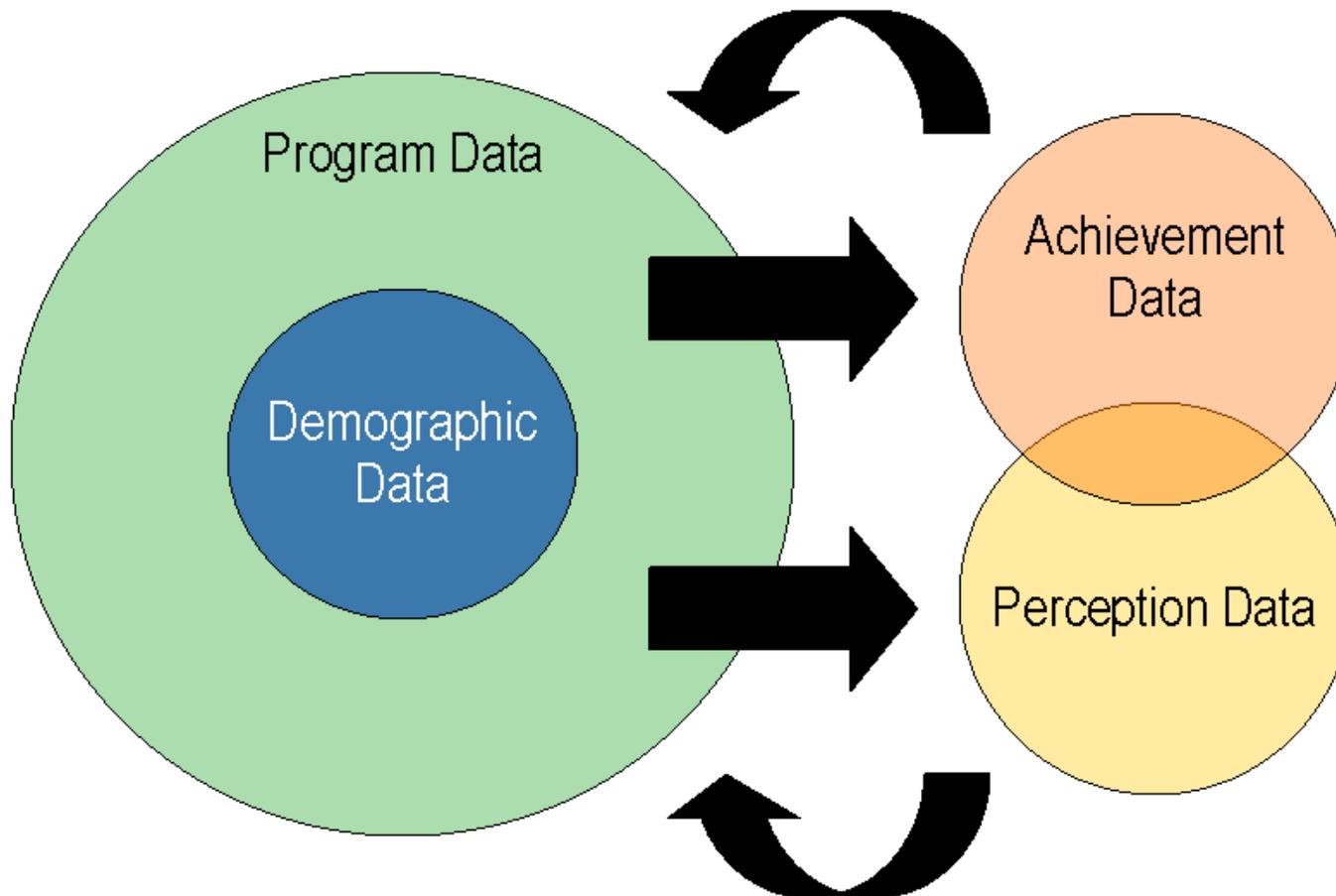
Phase 2

Data Collection

Phase 2: Data Collection

Four types of data:

➤ Student demographic data

➤ Student achievement data

➤ Program data

➤ Perception data

Data Framework

Phase 2: Data Collection

- Team tasks:
  - Identify the data to collect
    - Base your decision on what is relevant to your school, such as the following:
      - Mission and vision
      - Goals
      - Demographics
      - School climate
      - Community perceptions
  - Schedule a meeting
    - Who will collect?
    - Who will record?
    - By when?
  - Gather and record data

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Phase 2: Data Collection

➤ Data can confirm or challenge initial perceptions about improvement needs—let the data tell the story

Phase 2: Data Collection

➤ Data collection tools: pp. 32–57

➤ Nine tools

- Five perception surveys (currently undergoing field test and validation)

- P. 32: Compile Student Demographic Data

- P. 33: Collecting Data for Each Quality Indicator

- P. 37: Quantitative Matrix for Evaluating School Climate

- P. 38: Classroom Observation Protocol

Phase 2: Data Collection Activity

➢ Time to mix it up!

➢ Small groups based on the six quality indicators

➢ P. 33: Collecting Data for Each Quality Indicator

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Phase 3

Data Analysis

Phase 3: Data Analysis
Defining the Need

➢ Student achievement and student demographic data

➢ The outcome is student achievement by subgroup

➢ Two levels of assessment

- Summative assessment

    Annual standardized test score results

- Formative/Benchmark assessment

    Who makes these?

    How often are they administered?

    How are they tracked?

Phase 3: Data Analysis
A Data Set

➢ What needs can you see?

➢ What patterns do you notice?

➢ Common needs:

- Subgroup performance gaps:
  - Special needs
  - Ethnic/racial minorities
  - Poverty

Phase 3: Data Analysis
Finding the Solution

➢ Using program and perception data to find a solution

- The quality indicators:
  - Curriculum
    - Differentiation, alignment, articulation, resources
  - Instruction
    - High expectations, differentiation, flexibility, teacher skills, professional development, instructional time, opportunity for struggling learners (scheduling)
  - Assessments and tracking systems

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Phase 3: Data Analysis

School climate and family engagement

➢ Use of program and perception data

- How do we analyze data for school climate?
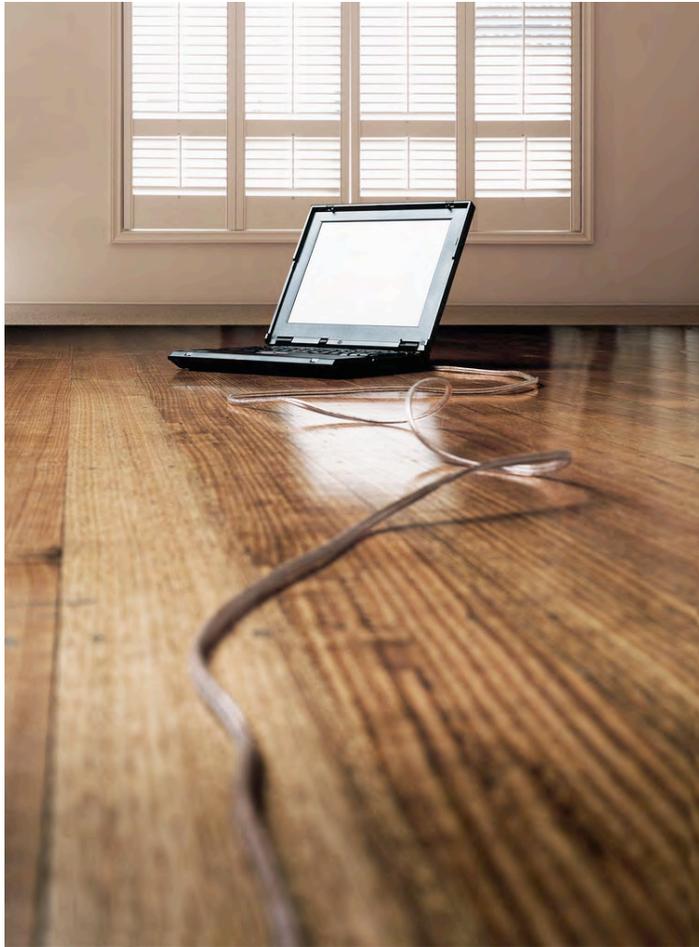- How do we analyze data for family engagement?

Phase 3: Data Analysis

School leadership

➢ Assessing your own leadership

  ▪ Use of program and perception data

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Phase 3: Data Analysis

How would you use program and perception data to find a solution to your identified need?

Phase 4

Implementation Planning

Phase 4: Implementation Planning

> It is the start of a brand-new school year. Your school improvement plan is completed and ready for the staff. Are you ready for implementation?

> What are some pitfalls that your school could face during the yearlong implementation of the school improvement plan?

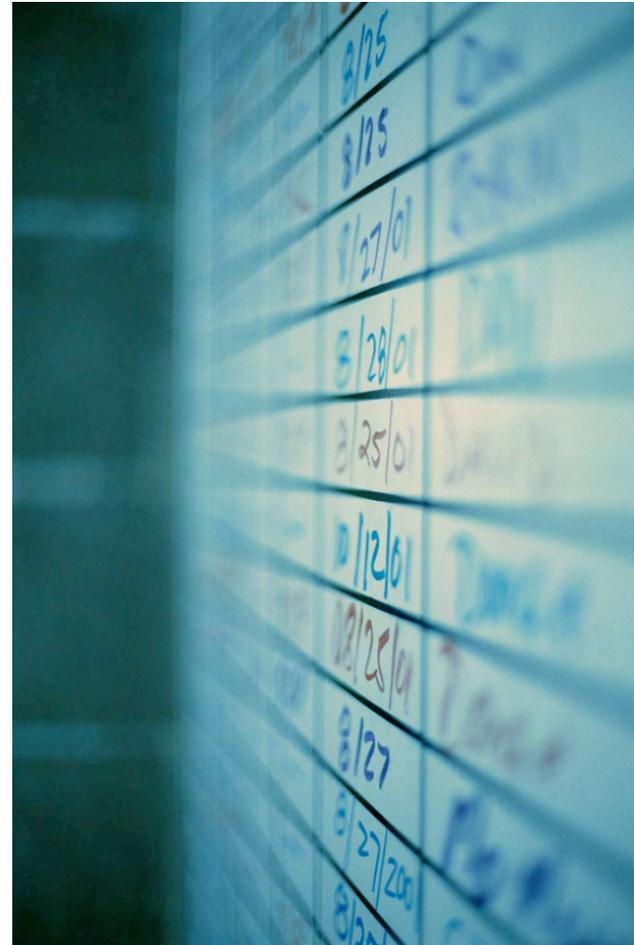# Phase 4: Implementation Planning Avoiding the Pitfalls

➢ Planning for implementation involves the following:
  1. Presenting and interpreting data
  2. Planning for implementation

➢ Prioritizing and making choices:
  1. Determining patterns in the data
  2. Ranking the findings

Phase 4: Implementation Planning Sample School Improvement Plan

➢ Analyze the plan's format

➢ Decide if it's ready for implementation

➢ Strengths?

➢ Weaknesses?

➢ What would you change or add?

➢ Discuss

Phase 4: Implementation Planning

➤ Phase 4: pp. 95-104

➤ As a team, review the tool, School Improvement Planning Template, p.103

➤ Work together to complete as many parts of the plan as you can for a goal that you developed during the data analysis and interpretation phase

Phase 4: Implementation Planning
Living the Plan

➢ How can a principal ensure that the plan is implemented?

➢ As a team, think about the types of activities that a principal and school improvement team will need to do to ensure that the plan is implemented successfully

➢ Generate a list

Concluding thoughts...

And questions or comments?

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