

THE IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY

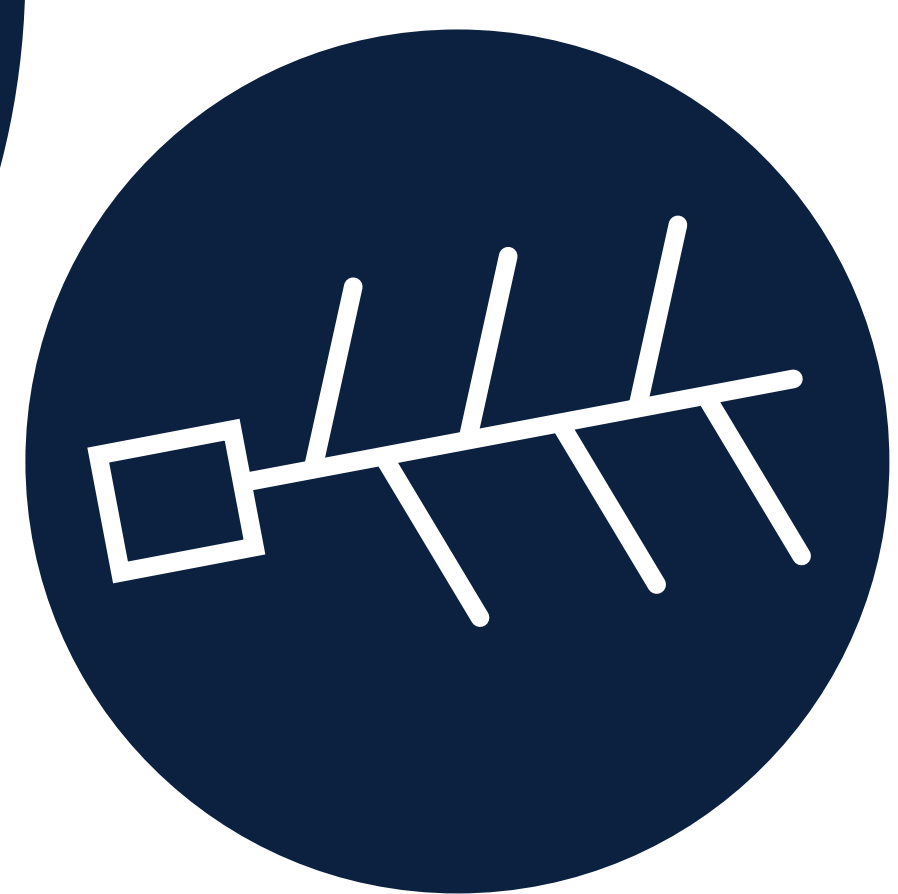
Improvement Science + Networked Communities



The overall goal of improvement work in schools and systems is to promote the rights, welfare, and educational needs of all students through high-quality, rigorous instruction in order to prepare future leaders for a rapidly changing world. This can only be accomplished in a school culture and climate that ensures all students are treated in an equitable manner with regard to the social and historical context of marginalized individuals, which includes, but is not limited to, those who may be marginalized due to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, English language proficiency, religion, and national origin (including legal status). The entire improvement process should be used to achieve this goal.



Analyzing a problem



AIMS

Investigate a critical problem that stands in the way of student achievement from multiple angles in order to gain multiple perspectives. As a result, define the aims for your improvement work.

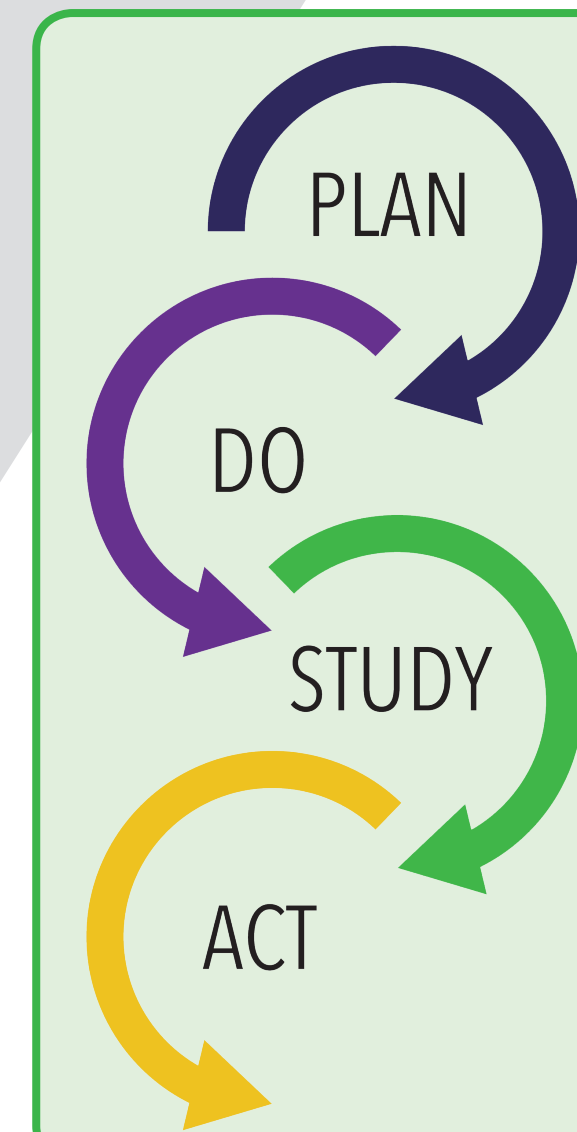
Creating a theory of improvement



tethered to research

Identify both primary and secondary drivers (factors that can influence your problem) to get to your aim. Consult existing research-based practices that have the potential to impact your work. Then focus and begin tests of change.

Testing changes



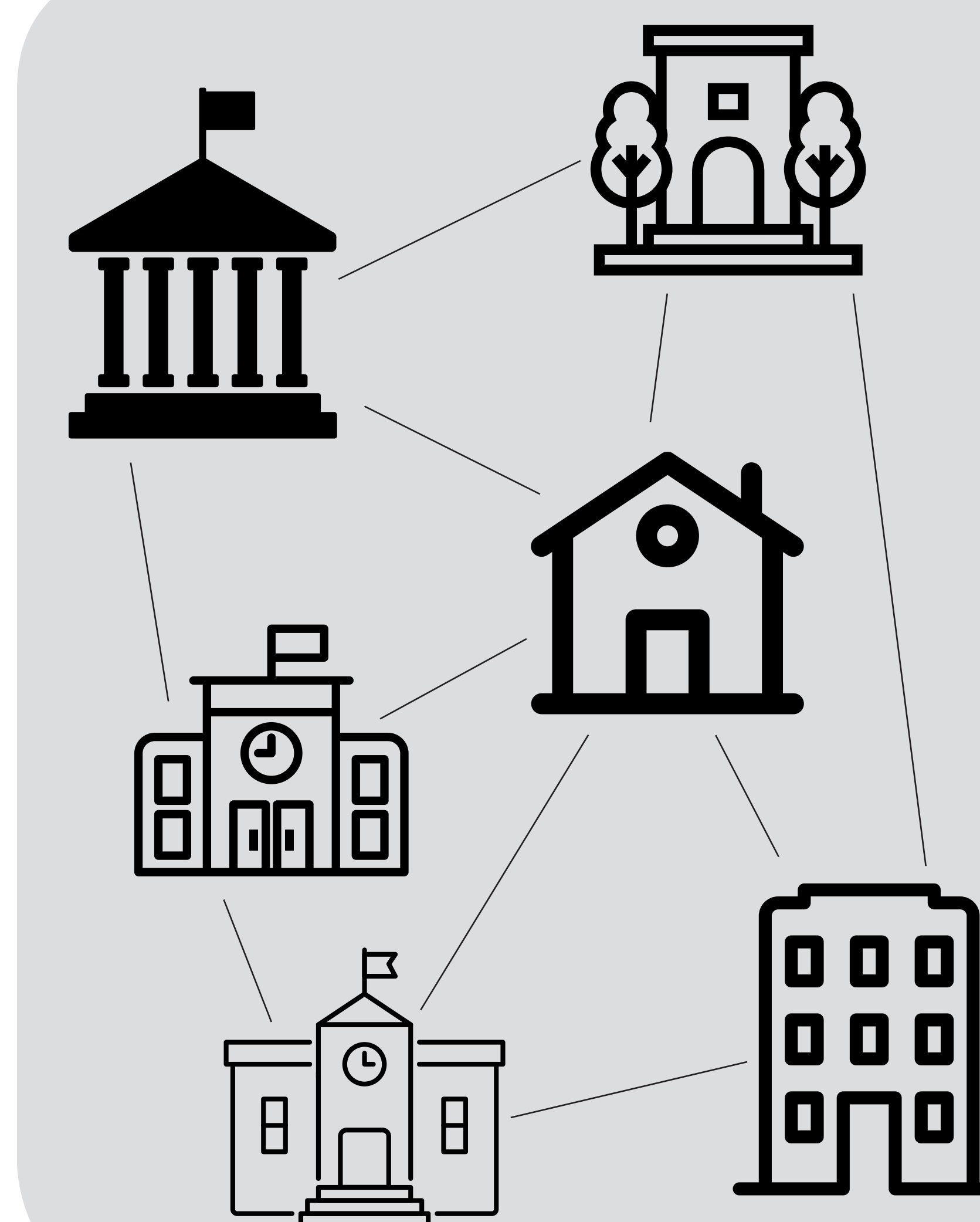
Use Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycles to test, reflect on, and refine changes to practice. Determine next steps: additional learning is needed, another test of change, or an adaptation and then a test of change.

Identify and use measures that provide the best window into your improvement work. Create methods for keeping track of data over time.

Trying it out and measuring progress

Scaling and sharing progress

Scale successful changes by spreading them to new contexts (e.g. other classrooms or schools.) Adapt with integrity to meet the needs of new contexts and cultures. Document implementation practices and form generalizations from new learning. Share stories and learning. Always consider learning from users' adaptations.



A networked improvement community, guided by improvement science, coordinates the acceleration of development, testing, and refinement of interventions and their effective integration into practice across varied educational contexts. It is only by conducting analyses across member entities that patterns emerge, can be identified, and can contribute important knowledge to improvement efforts.

References:

- Improvement Science Handbook*. NYCDOE. 2018
- Scaling Up Success: Lessons Learned from Technology-Based Educational Improvement*. Dede, Honan, Peters. 2005
- Why a NIC?* LeMahieu. 2015