

# So, you are thinking about Balanced Calendar?

*Using Improvement Science tools and resources to  
plan for the potential of a Balance Calendar  
Implementation for your Community*

# Your Facilitators



Dr. Juli Coleman



Dr. Dan Wolfson

# Session Outcome

Provide an overview of improvement science and explore how school and district teams might utilize improvement tools and resources in considering implementation of a balance calendar.



# How are you thinking about your journey?



Achievement  
Enrich  
Acceleration  
Engagement  
Climate

Balanced  
Calendar

# Impact of Pandemic on Learning

- Trauma and isolation for many children
- Lost instructional time
- Decreased engagement for many
- Greater gaps in terms of both life circumstances and educational access

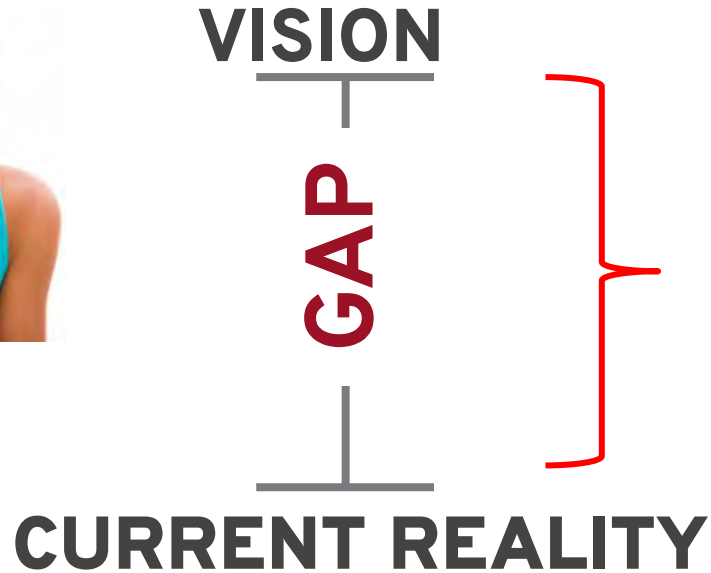


# Individual Reflection

What is one inequitable outcome in your work that keeps you up at night?



# All change begins with...



**HOW DO WE  
IMPROVE?**

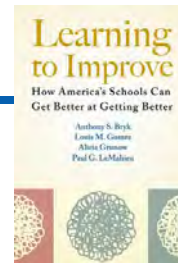


# How Might We?

HOW MIGHT WE  
APPROACH THE  
PLANNING OF A  
BALANCED  
CALENDAR  
IMPLEMENTATION?



IMPROVEMENT SCIENCE





# What is Your Experience with Improvement?



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# What is Your Experience with Improvement?



# Typical Approaches to Improvement

How do we solve problems?



# Improvement Science

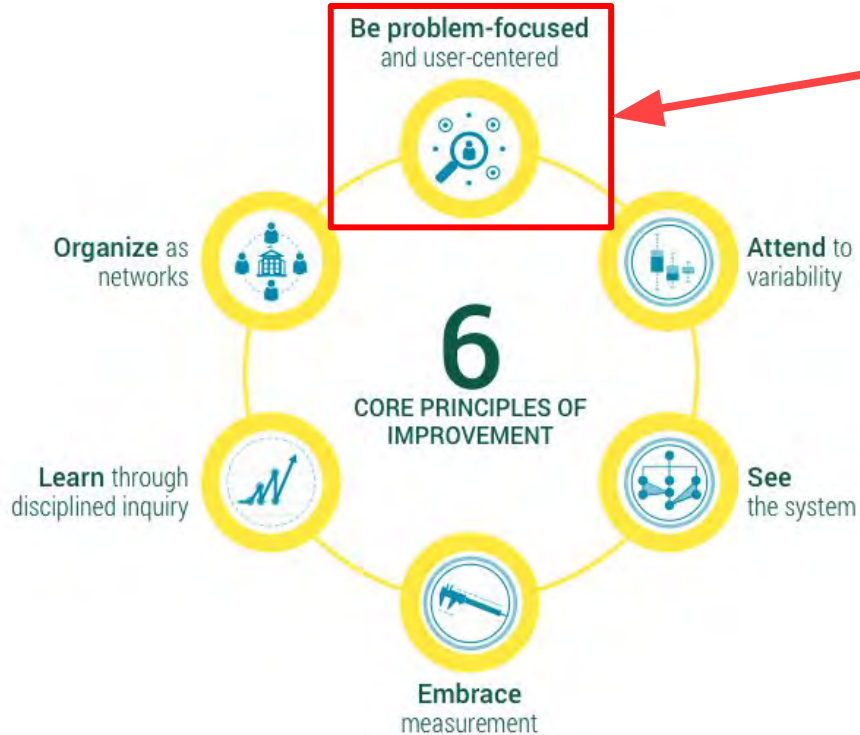
*Improvement science is **explicitly designed to accelerate learning-by-doing**. It's a more user-centered and problem-centered approach to improving teaching and learning- Carnegie Foundation*

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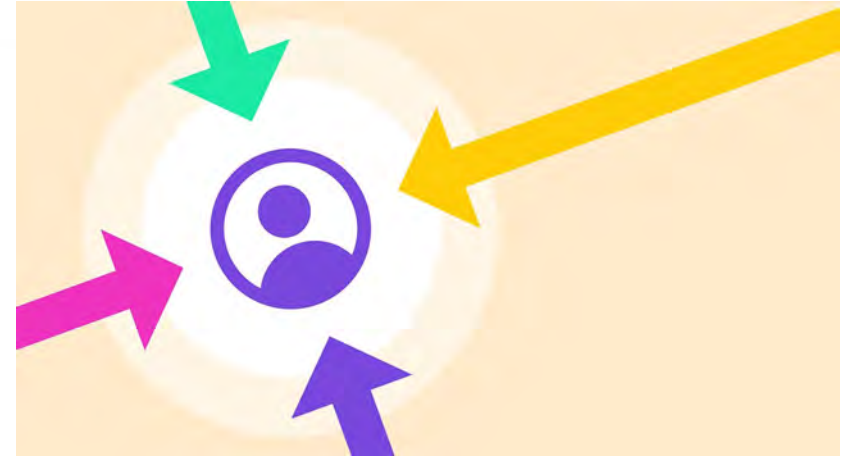
Improvement Science is a **methodological framework** that helps **guide practitioners** as they **define problems, implement changes, and determine whether or not those changes** are actually improving outcomes and practice.

*-The Educational Leader's Guide to Improvement Science*

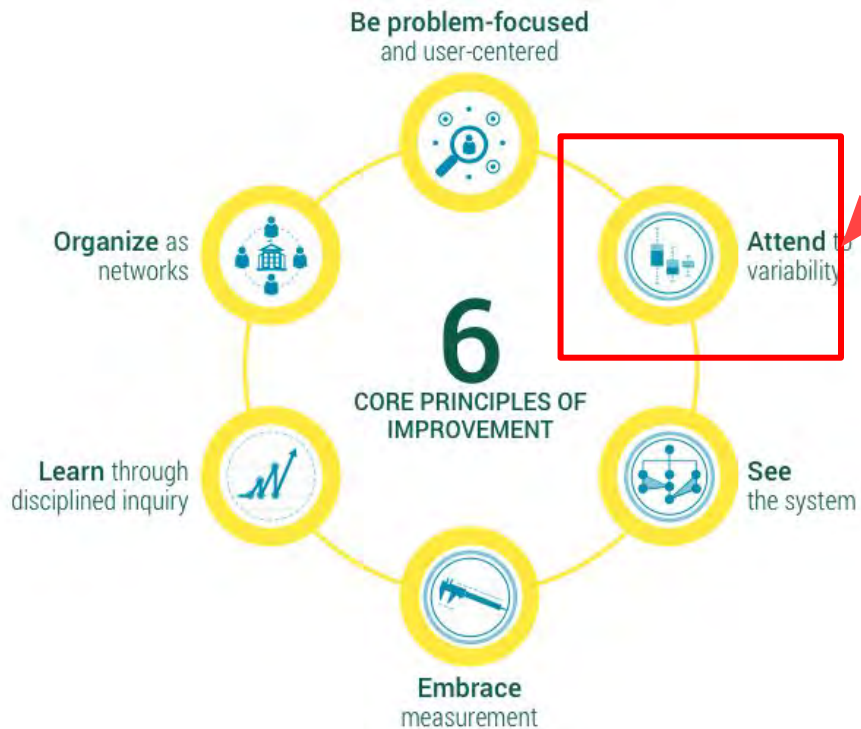
# Six Principles Guide the Work



**Make the work problem specific and user-centered**



# Six Principles Guide the Work



**Variation in performance is the core problem to address**

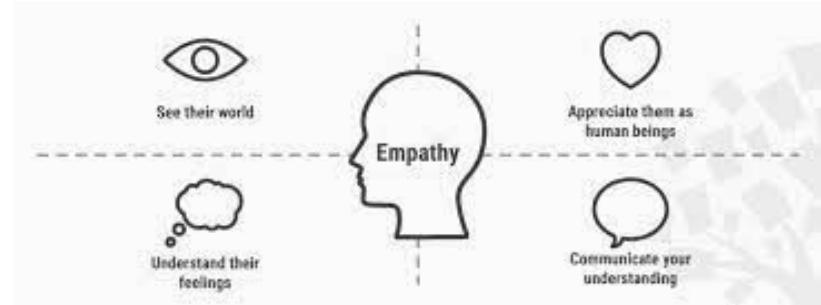




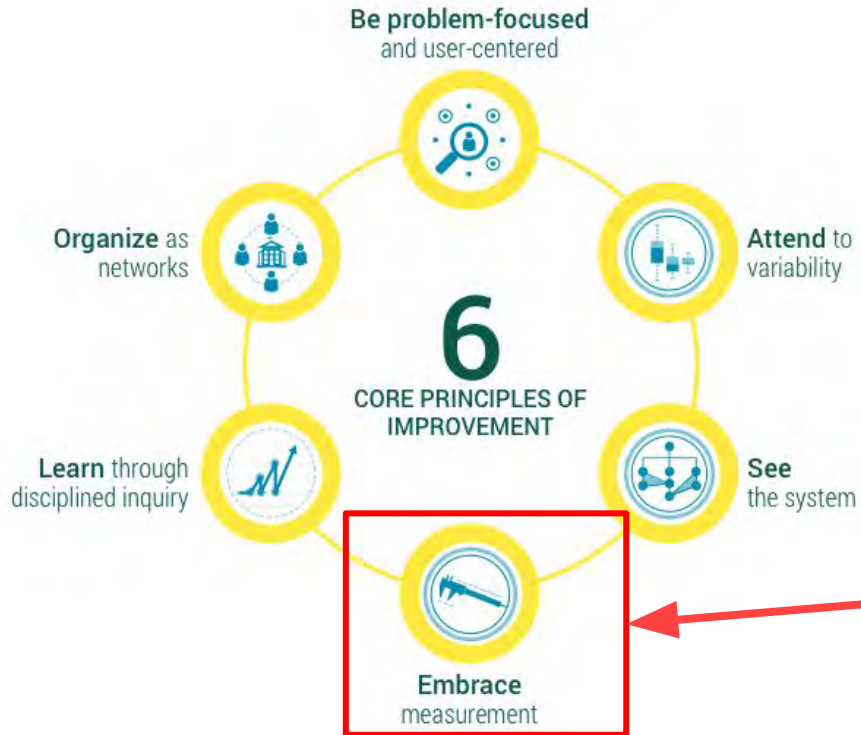
# Six Principles Guide the Work



**See the system that is producing the current outcomes**



# Six Principles Guide the Work



**We cannot improve at scale what we cannot measure?**

# Six Principles Guide the Work

Anchor improvement in disciplined inquiry



# Improvement Science

- Leverages contribution of **everyone** (people closest to the problem are in the best position to help solve it)
- Redesigning **systems** is the goal
- **Learning** and **iterative** endeavour
- Uses tools, skills, and protocols and mindsets

**Pair Share:** *What is one idea that resonates with you?*

# Considerations for a Balanced Calendar

- ❑ What are we curious about?
- ❑ Do we understand our context?
- ❑ Stakeholder engagement! How do we use multiple strategies to solicit stakeholder feedback and input?
- ❑ What are we aiming for?
- ❑ What might it look like?



# Reinventing School

**“Reprioritize.** *This is the time to see if something can be different. To reset the system, we may have to take a loss at first, but we can recoup the loss if we actually get kids excited about education and create a more positive space for them to learn.”*

—Michelle Ampong  
Atlanta parent and school volunteer

# HOW MIGHT A BALANCED CALENDAR SERVE OUR COMMUNITY?

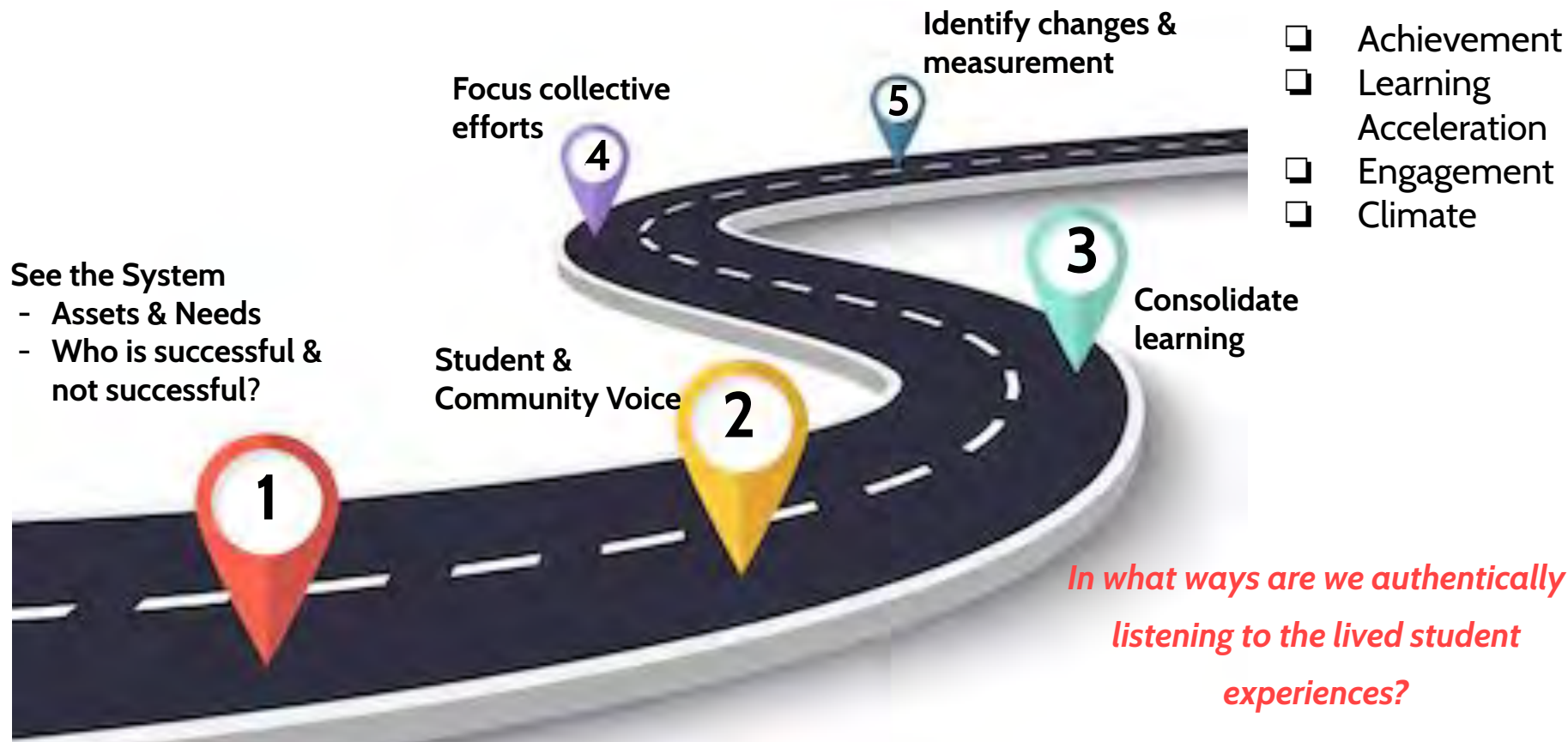
**EQUITY**

**EMPATHY**

**INQUIRY**

**TELLING  
OUR  
STORY**

# Balanced Calendar Journey Using Improvement Science Principles





## INTENTIONS

What do you want to be a part of this work?

## CONCERNS

What do you think will get in the way?

## BOUNDARIES

What is the scope of this work (group, segment)?

## DREAMS

If this goes incredibly well, what will be true? What metrics would have been shifted?

# Improvement Science for Teams

## ESD Professional Development Offering (Event # 148758)

Improvement Science in Practice is designed to provide a hands-on introduction to the tools and principles of improvement science. Improvement Science is a disciplined approach to educational innovation that supports teachers, leaders, and researchers in collaborating to solve specific problems of practice.

**Three Workshop Series— November, February, March**

Registration

<https://tinyurl.com/ESDimprovement>

# The Improvement Journey



We do not  
learn from  
experience.  
We learn from  
reflecting on  
experience.

JOHN DEWEY