



SYMPOSIUM BREAKOUT SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 | 12:00-1:00 PM ET

# Prioritizing Learning Systems During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

## PRESENTERS:

- Dan Gordon, EducationCounsel
- LaVerne Srinivasan, Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Scott Palmer, EducationCounsel



# Agenda

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1

## PRESENTATION

What is a Learning System?

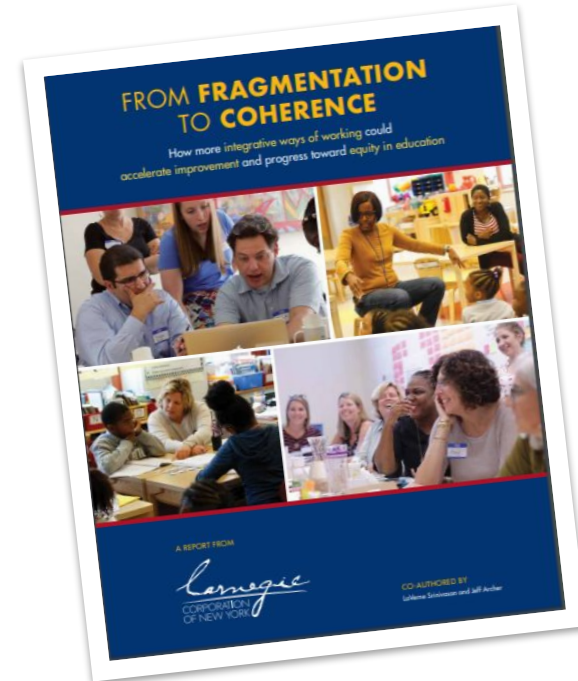
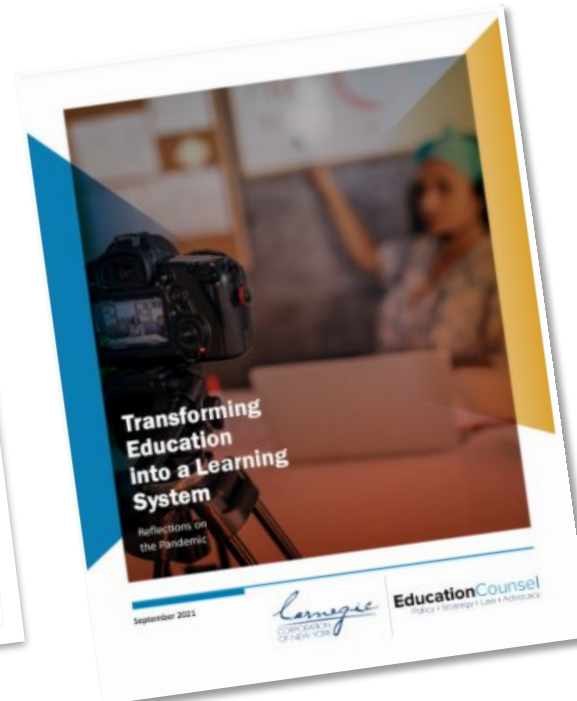
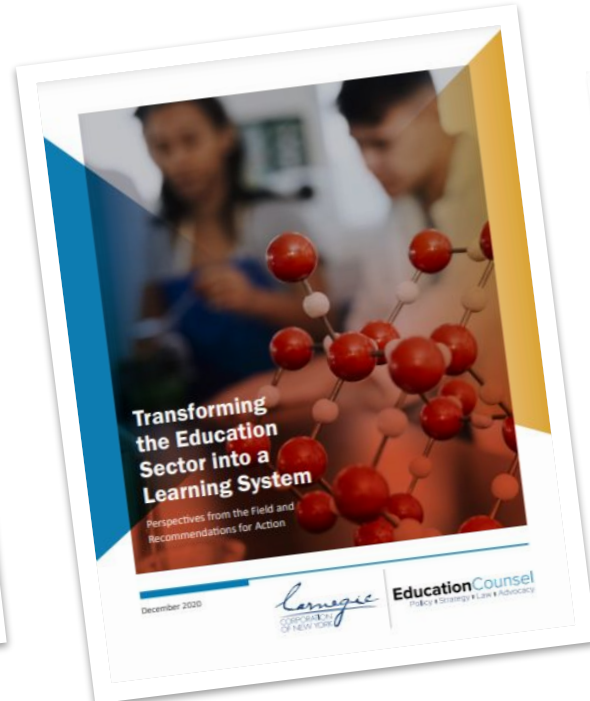
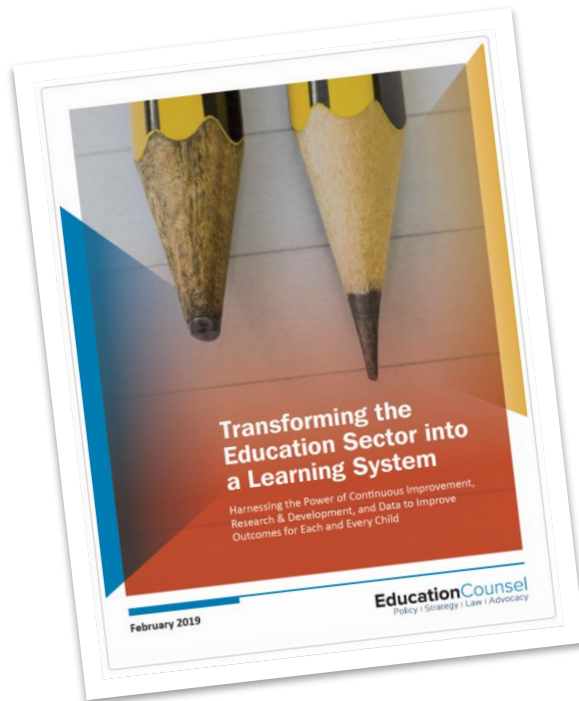
How did it help during the pandemic (or not)?

2

## BREAKOUTS

Applying these concepts to your context

# Work to Date



# Who is here today?

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# Agenda

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1

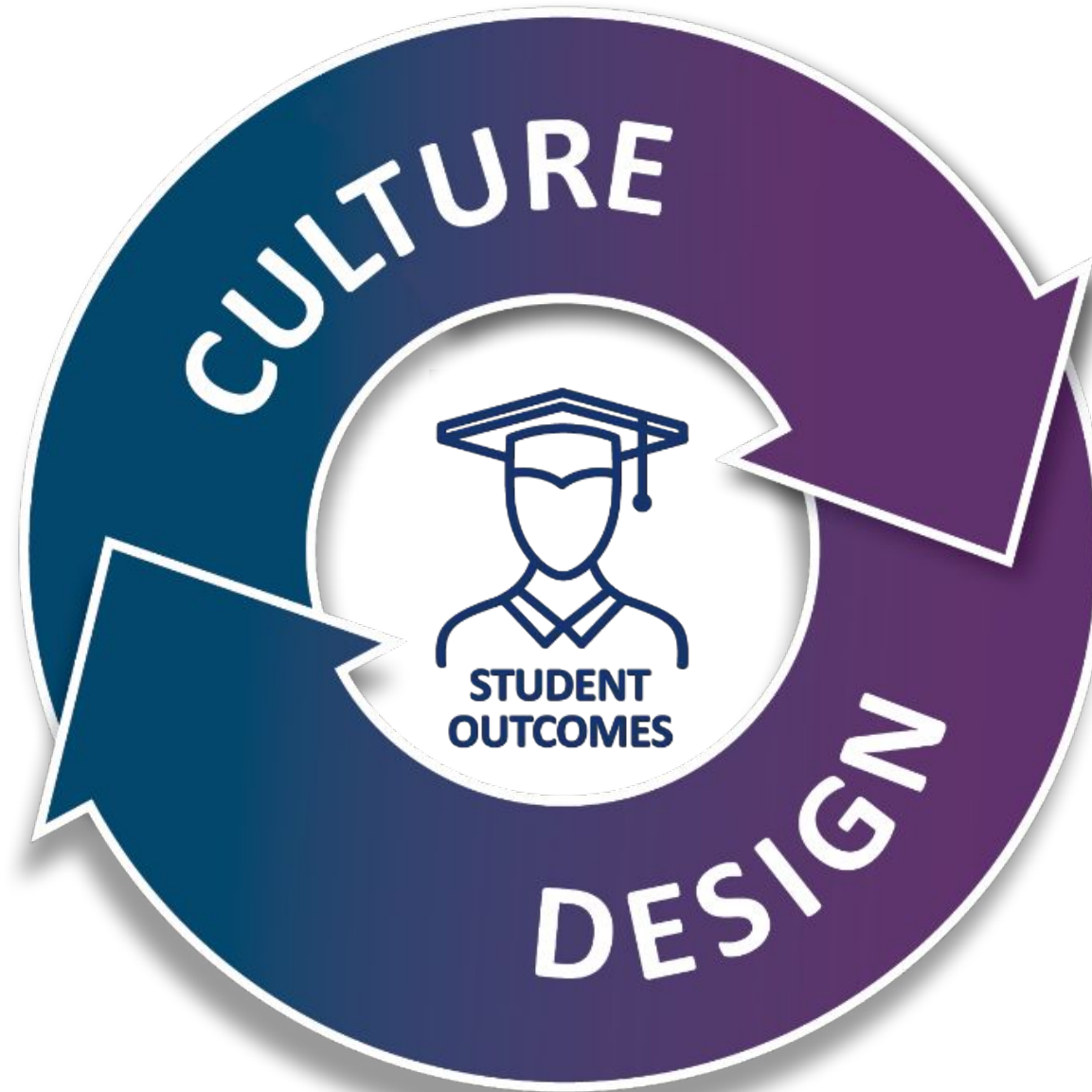
**PRESENTATION** What is a Learning System?  
How did it help during the pandemic (or not)?

2

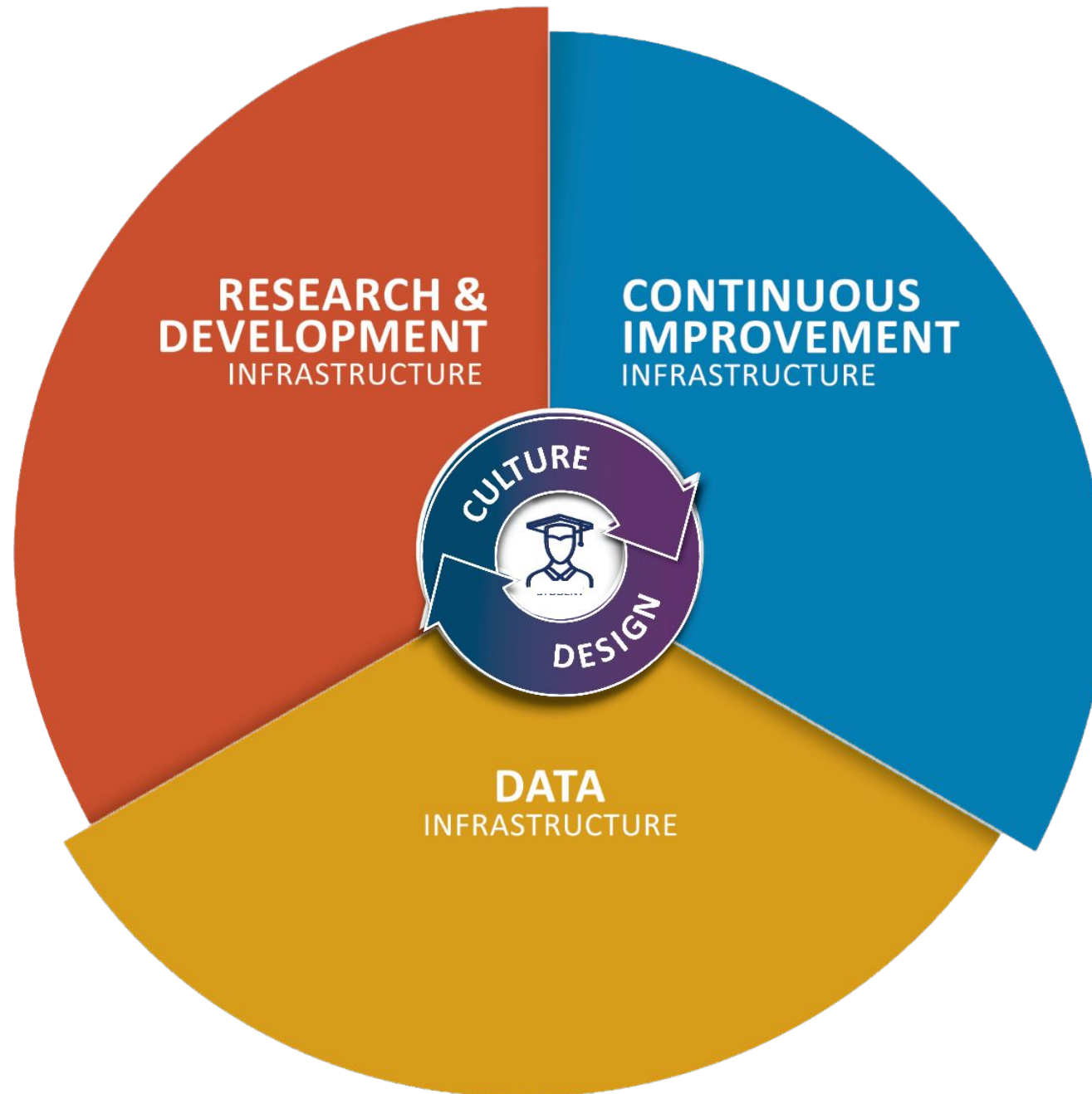
**BREAKOUTS** Applying these concepts to your  
context

3

**PANEL** Local & federal leaders look back & look  
ahead







Leadership

Capacity

**RESEARCH &  
DEVELOPMENT**  
INFRASTRUCTURE

**CONTINUOUS  
IMPROVEMENT**  
INFRASTRUCTURE

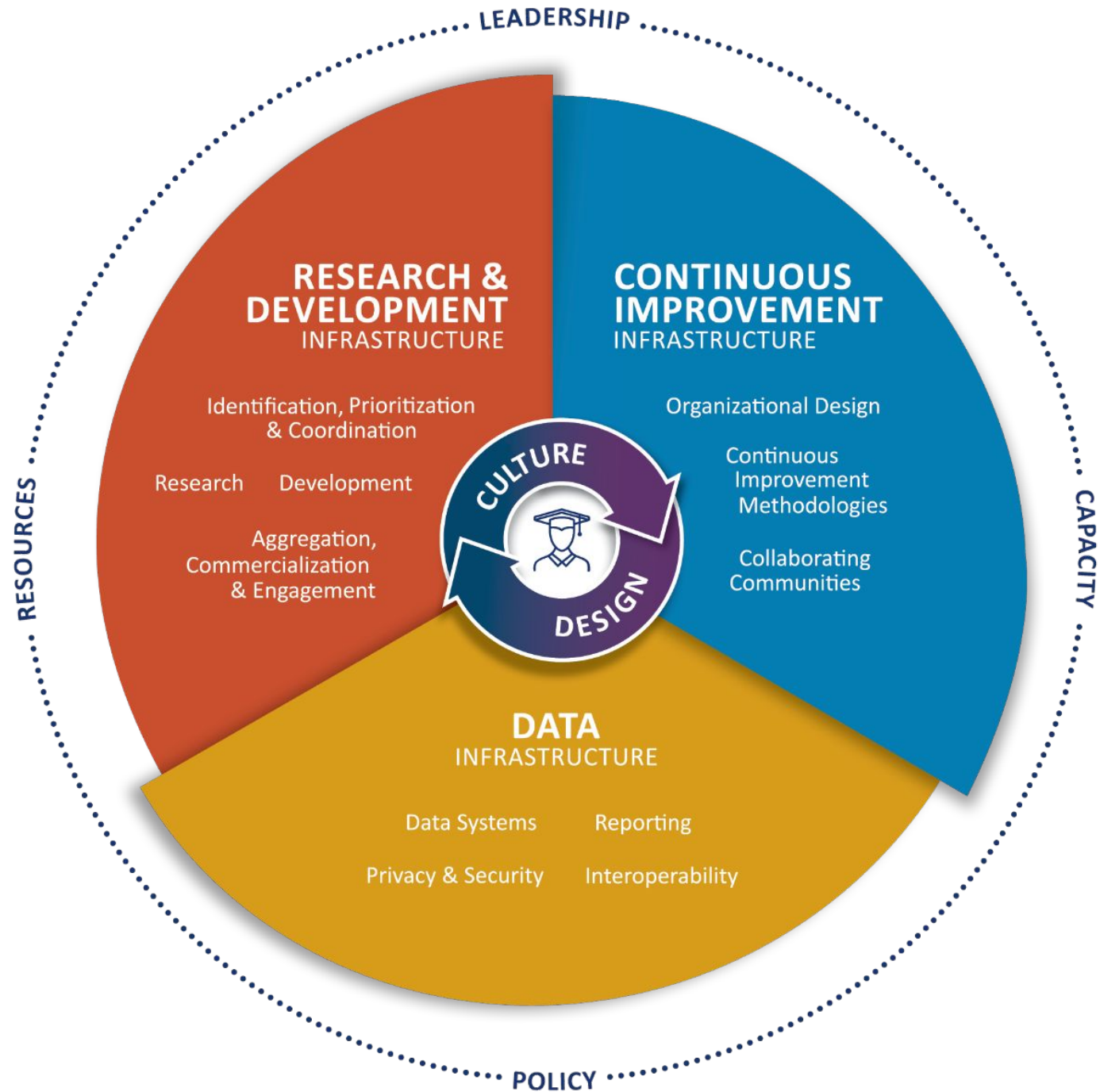


**DATA**  
INFRASTRUCTURE

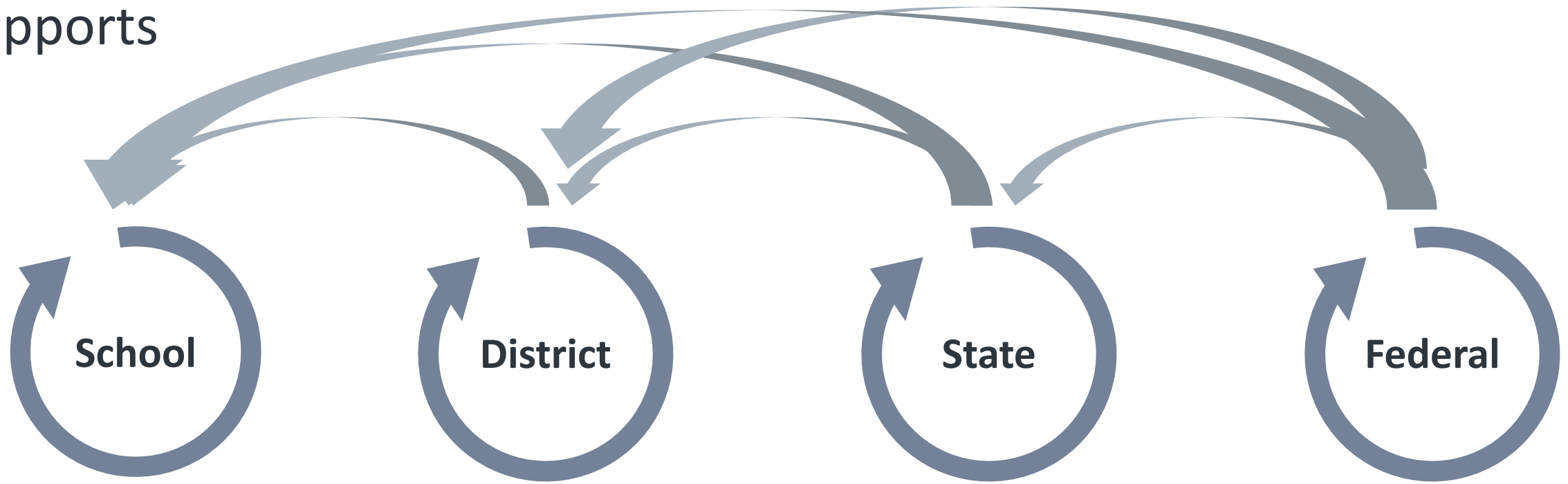
Policy

Resources

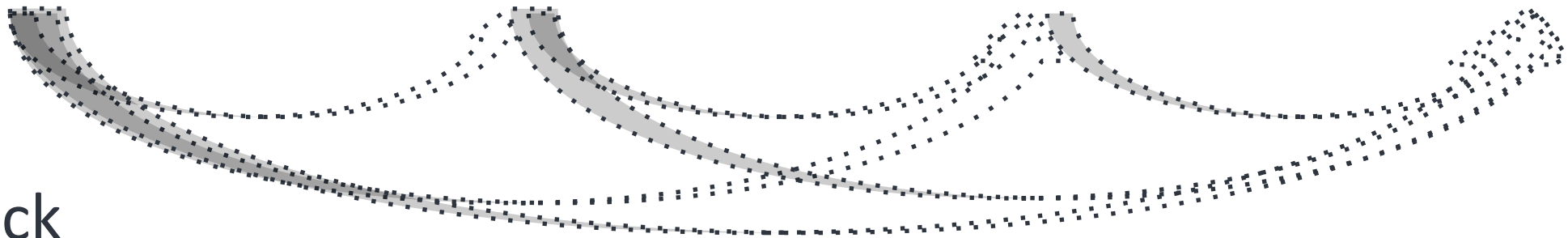




Supports



Feedback  
Loops



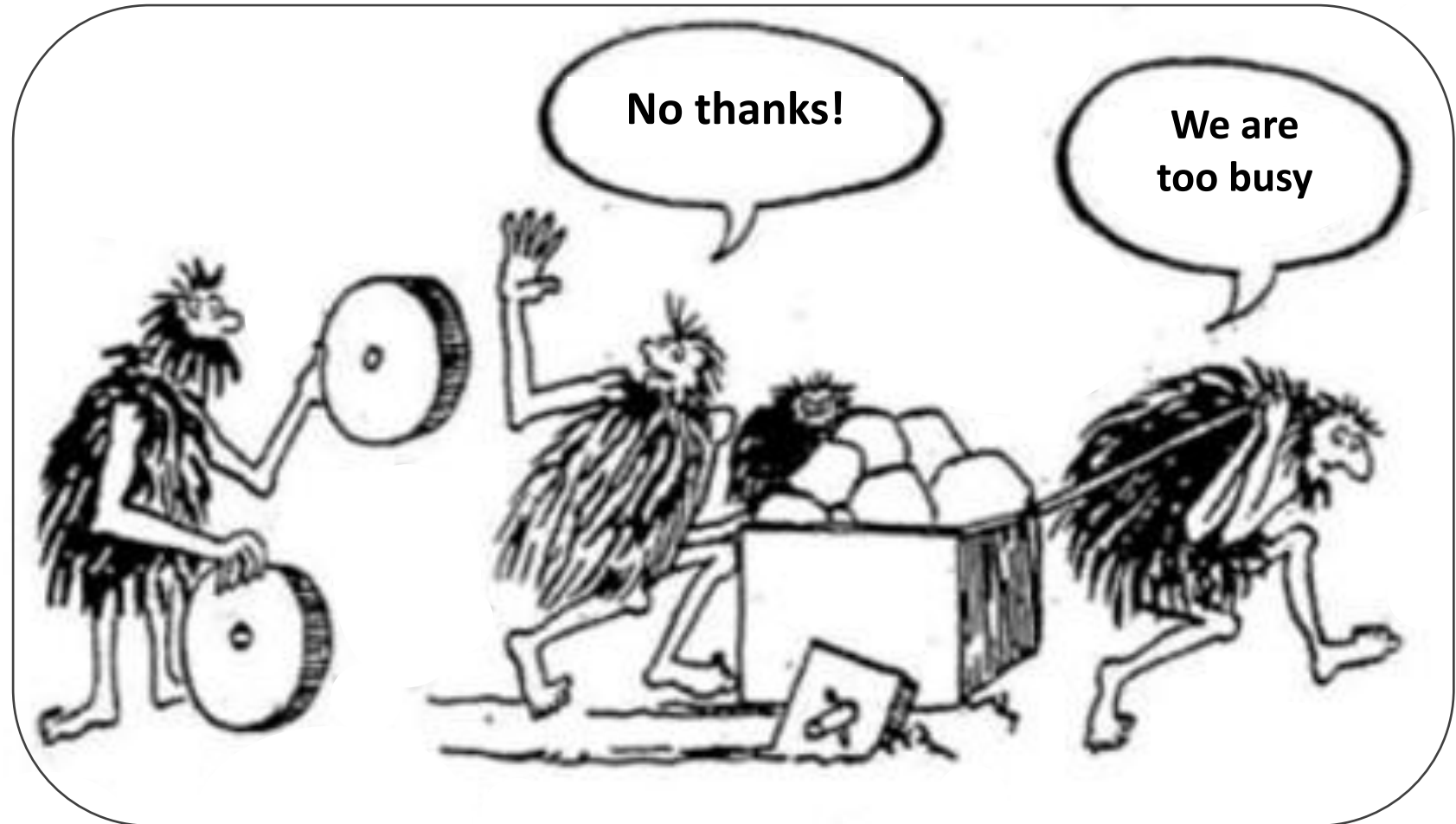


## RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Identification, Prioritization  
& Coordination

Research    Development

Aggregation,  
Commercialization  
& Engagement



# CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Organizational Design

Continuous  
Improvement  
Methodologies

Collaborating  
Communities







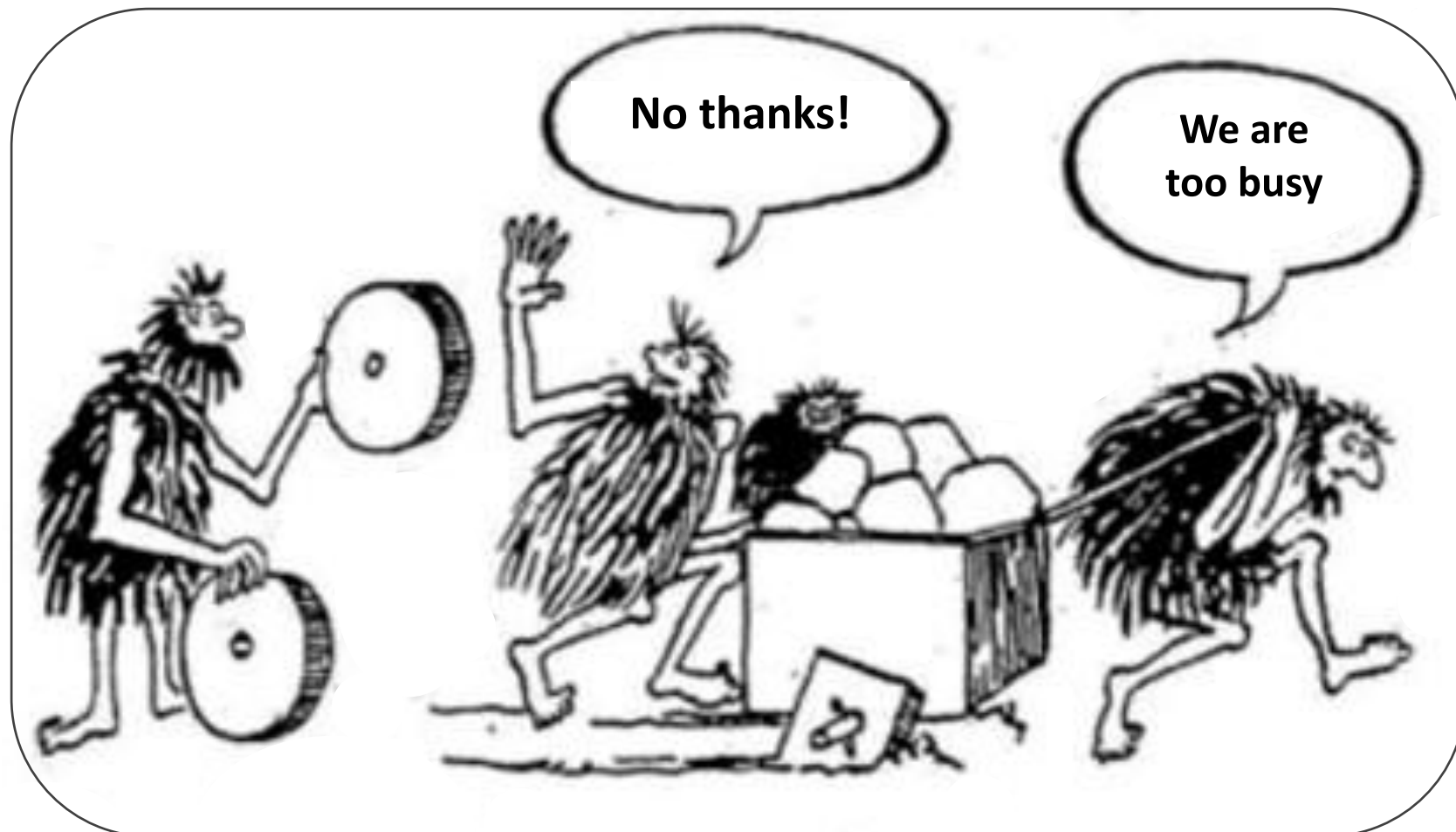
## DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

Data Systems

Reporting

Privacy & Security

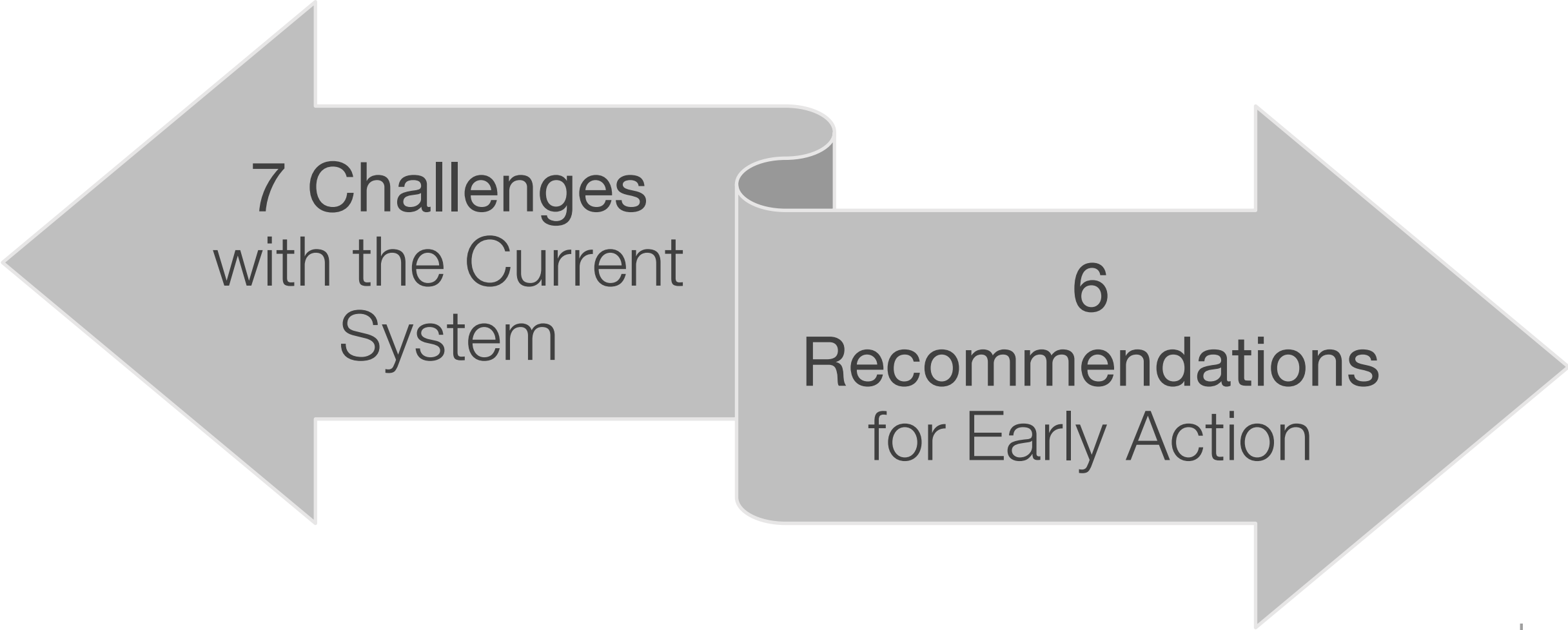
Interoperability





# How do we begin & accelerate the shifts?

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7 Challenges  
with the Current  
System

6  
Recommendations  
for Early Action

# Challenges with the Current System

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## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1) Organizational culture and incentives do not support continuous learning and improvement.
- 2) The structures and conditions needed to support continuous learning are not adequately developed.

## R&D INFRASTRUCTURE

- 3) Funding for R&D in education is low, especially on the development side.
- 4) Approaches to knowledge creation are not tailored to policy and practice needs.
- 5) The field lacks commonly agreed-upon evidence standards and a common vocabulary.
- 6) Approaches to diffusing knowledge do not reflect how stakeholders acquire and use information.

## DATA INFRASTRUCTURE

- 7) The culture of data use needs to be strengthened, and concerns about data privacy and security need to be addressed.

# Recommendations for Early Action

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## Human Capacity

Define the Capacities We Need

## Resources

Invest More in the Education R&D Infrastructure

Invest More in Research-Practice Partnerships

## Leadership

Identify, Connect & Develop the Field of Learning System Leaders\*

## Policy & Incentives

Capitalize on Ongoing Efforts to Implement ESSA\*\*

Develop a Learning Systems Policy Framework

# Learning Systems During the Pandemic

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# Learning Systems During the Pandemic



# Data: Stumbling Around in the Dark

## Tracking Student Attendance Under

How much learning have students lost due to COVID-19? Projections are



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## DeVos: Not My Job to Track School Reopening Plans

Educators have been critical of the Trump administration for its lack of guidance, especially given how much pressure the White House has put on them to reopen for in-person learning.

By [Lauren Camera](#) | Oct. 20, 2020, at 3:31 p.m.



# Data: Stumbling Around in the Dark

## Additional “Attendance Measures ”

	What are we (districts, schools & community partners) trying to find out?	What are school/district responsibilities, with support from community partners?	What data can we collect?  (Possible data points)	What are the equity implications?
	Can we reach	Maintain regularly	% of families with working contact information.	Working contact information is essential

## 7. Surveys and Feedback Loops

Another feature of successful systems was their ability to learn based on data

	support?		% of families reporting positive relationships with school staff. % of families reporting the opportunity to provide feedback on school decisions.	
Participation	Are students participating in learning opportunities?	Offer options to participate in meaningful learning opportunities.	% of students participating in learning opportunities at least 95% of the time. % of students missing 10% or more of learning opportunities.	Students who participate regularly are less likely to fall behind academically and graduate.



[www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)

# R&D: Peaks & Valleys

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What is effective virtual instruction?

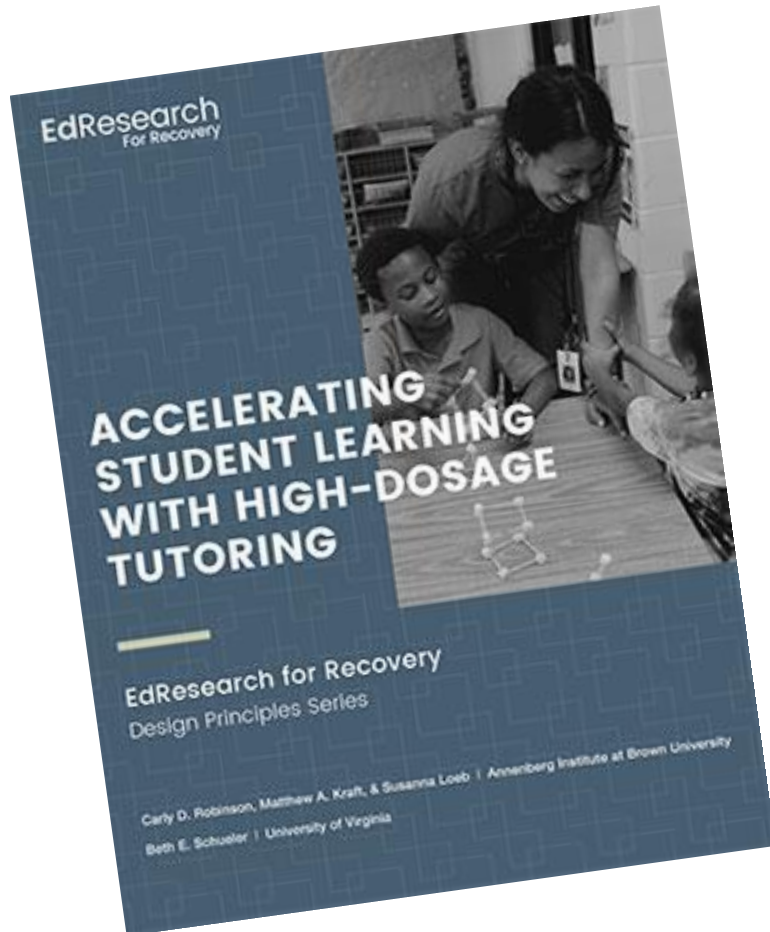
How can we help students feel connected?

Is it safe to return to in-person school?

What's working so far?

How should we support ELs and SWDs?

# R&D: Peaks & Valleys



## What is the Evidence Project?

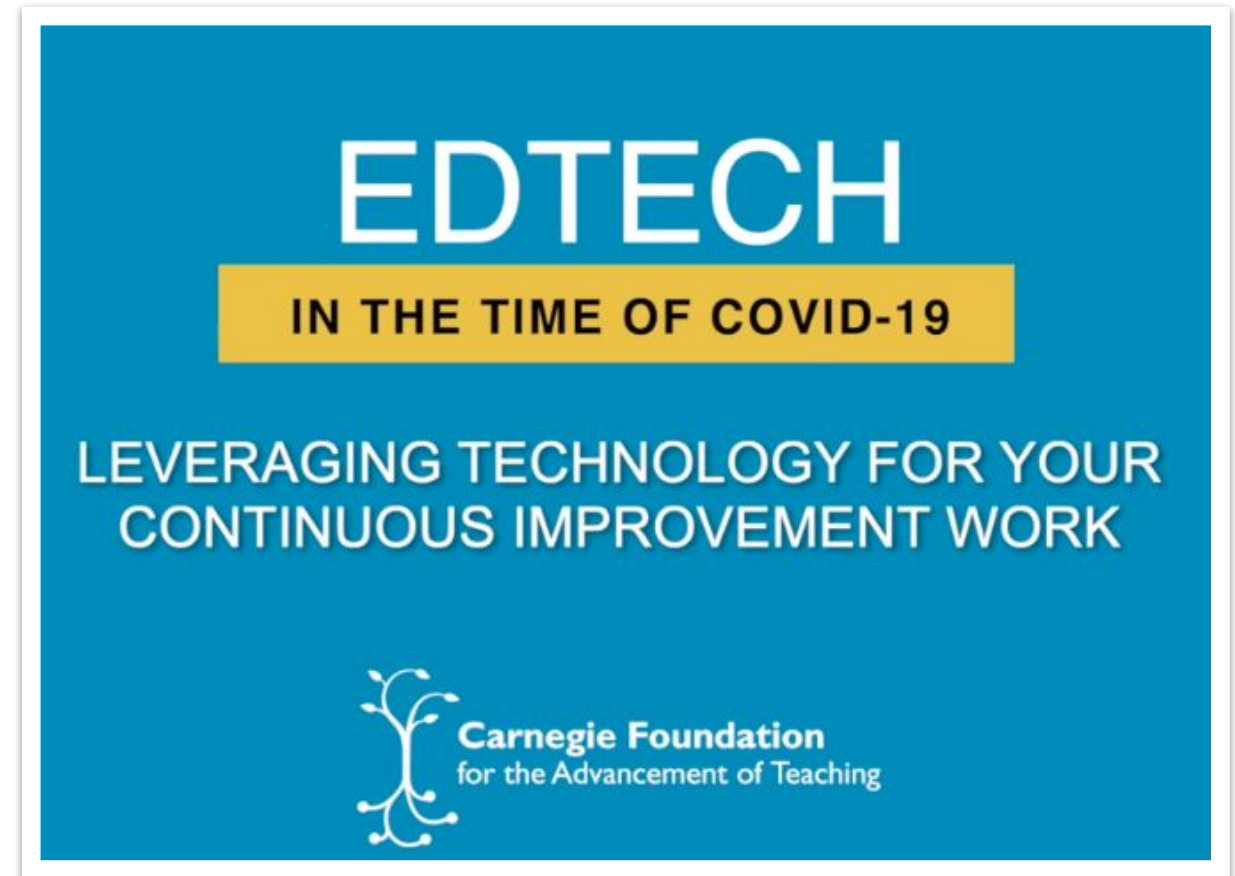
In times of crisis, knowledge must flow freely and quickly. The COVID-19 pandemic created just such a crisis in K-12 education.

# CI: Building a Plane While Flying It

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People are failing more often than they're used to....  
People need to hear from their boss that it's okay to fail. The important thing is no matter how hard you fall down, get up, dust yourself off, and move forward.

# CI: Building a Plane While Flying It



# Learning Systems & Building Back Better

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Silver Bullet  
Syndrome

ARP  
ROI

Infrastructure  
Week

Change the  
System Itself



# Agenda

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**PRESENTATION** What is a Learning System?  
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**BREAKOUTS** Applying these concepts to your  
context

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**PANEL** Local & federal leaders look back & look  
ahead

# Breakout Discussions

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Suggested prompts after *quick* introductions

1. How did learning system approaches help in your context? Where did gaps make it harder?
2. What's most important to help build a learning system now and over time?

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# Respondents

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**WAKE COUNTY**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**



The background of the entire image is a dense collage of numerous small, semi-transparent photographs. These photos depict various scenes from a symposium, including people in professional attire networking, individuals presenting at a podium, and groups of people seated at round tables in a conference room. The collage is overlaid with a solid blue tint. Centered on this background is the Aurora Institute logo, which features a stylized white starburst above the word 'AURORA' in a serif font, with 'INSTITUTE' in a sans-serif font below it. The word 'Symposium' is written in a large, elegant script font below 'INSTITUTE'.

# AURORA INSTITUTE *Symposium*

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OCTOBER 25-27, 2021 | VIRTUAL

*“Leading Competency-Based Education Redesign”*

Thank you for joining us!

**Share Your Thoughts.**

Participate in our one-minute poll (link in chat box).