Actionable Change with Poverty in Mind

Eric Jensen Friday, October 14, 2016



Confederation of Oregon School Administrators 707 13th Street SE, Suite 100 Salem, Oregon 97301 www.cosa.k12.or.us





AGENDA for TODAY

- (1) "Big 7" Change is hard, PDs rarely work, assumptions, 7 Big steps, lack of change systems, shame and chronic stress
- (2) The 3-Way "Supply Chain" for sustainable change: personal, social and system-wide facilitation
- (3) Decisions: select from evidence-based change options and decide what to get rid of and where to go next















Staff Response to t	he P	D?
" drives lasting improvements to my instructional practice"	iprovers 52%	NON-IMPROVERS
"is targeted to support my specific teaching context"	50%	48%
"is a good use of my time"	44%	40%
"is overall satisfactory"	67%	65%



What About Mindsets?				
What Do 10K Teachers Believe?	ROVERS	NON-IMPROVERS		
Individual teacher is responsible for development	41%	40%		
Feedback plays a crucial role in improving teacher practice	79 %	74%		
Jacob, A. & McGovern, T. (2015) The Minage Confronting the Nard Truth About Development. TNTP Report. Accessed at: http://tmtp.org/asset/documents.fTN				

Working in High-Poverty Schools is Stressful; Staff Need Better Support The teachers need support to help the students, which helps them pass tests and graduate. When students graduate, it helps them get a job, which helps them afford to pay taxes, which means there will be money for our retirement.

What About Support?		
Number of times observed over two years	8	
Hours of coaching over two years	12	13
Hours of formal collaboration over two years	69	64
Hours spent per month in professional development	17	18



What Worked Best?

The Use of Informal Collaboration (being able to work with colleagues in a supportive culture without heavy "top down" pressure)



How to Change This

FACT: Staff and leadership vote to create a powerful pool of potential topics for staff development. Allow the staff to choose the topic (this helps buy-in) from the pool that will most add to student achievement.

ACTION STEP: Use the five strategies listed on the next slide to ensure implementation fidelity.

Strong Resources: Get top ideas from www.jensenlearning.com/topfive

PD Content/Skill Choices

- ✓ Insure ALL staff: 1) know and 2) get actionable feedback on using, the *Teacher's Top Five Classroom Tools* (based on the EOI and effect size on student achievement)
- ✓ To get the FREE TTFCT list and the evidence, go to: www.ionconloarning.com/tonfive
 - www.jensenlearning.com/topfive



2 Why is Change Hard?

Schools typically lack evidence-based **pathways** or posted **systems** that *invite* and guide collective staff self-efficacy.



Lack of "Change" Systems

- Most leaders have routines that *maintain stability*, but not routines for change
- Most leaders do a "one and done" style of PD with little or no follow up
- Most staff have no *internal training program* to better "run their own brain" like mindfulness, yoga, healthy eating, using daily stress tools and regular fitness
- Staff rarely foster *external daily habits* that build collective capacity, attitude and trust

What You Can Change

- ✓ Leadership fosters growth in the SYSTEMS that are built for change.
- ✓ Your staff talks about change as a healthy part of life instead of a curse.
- ✓ Systems allow monthly input on new ideas, dialogue about them, time to critique them and implement (if and when appropriate).

Do Your Change Structures Meet the Following Criteria?

- □ They are *evidence-based* with strong effect sizes and posted to ensure consistency
- □ They are fully implemented, maintained and *assessed* to ensure effectiveness
- □ All affected parties are encouraged to offer input for purposeful, *constant improvement*
- □ There is timely (monthly, 2X/year?) *reporting* to the PLCs that manage the accountability





Examples of Adverse Triggers

- 1. Classroom truancies, discipline issues, lack of time and school emergencies
- 2. Lack of clarity and consistency from leadership (both on-site & district level)
- 3. Ineffective quality team time for PLCs
- 4. Unsupportive comments from students, the community and colleagues
- 5. Constant changes in assessment and curriculum standards

Change the Narratives

FACT: Hearing and repeating stories about "the way things are" *becomes the dominant, reinforcing narrative in our own head*. For some, the story in their head is full of failing, indifferent students, unsupportive leadership and demeaning policy makers.

ACTION STEP: Create and repeat a new narrative. This personal and school story is about the mission and the role played by all to make daily miracles happen. Help staff develop a vulnerable "mistakes okay" climate, collaborate to set new, higher goals, provide a reason for others to believe in them, set micro-goals and share the rewards of success. Affirm the positives. Read it to yourself every day until it is memorized.

Strong Resources: Redirect (Wilson) and Triggers (Goldsmith)

What You Can Change

- ✓ Leadership draws attention to his/her own (prior) weak narratives and openly questions them. New narratives are shared.
- ✓ Open suggestions for ways to promote and share better school narratives.
- ✓ Foster the key ideas with 5Qs that can fill into positive, successful school narratives. Start with yourself.

Here is the Structure That Can Build a New Narrative: 5 Daily Qs

- 1) How did I make a contribution to the long-term success of our school today?
- 2) How did I *make this process relevant* for me, my students and our staff?
- 3) How did I manage my well-being today?
- 4) How well did I share success stories about our students and my role today?
- 5) How I could improve my contributions to help our school succeed over time.

What Else You Can Change Today

- ✓As a leader, share your personal journey that led you to choose lofty school goals
- ✓ Share the steps of the path that fully describes HOW your school will succeed
- ✓ Ask staff to describe WHERE THEY CAN FIT into the larger success of the school - what can they do daily
- ✓Invite staff to share their new narratives







One of More of the Key 7 are Usually Missing. That Stops The Whole Process From Working



To Change, Educators Need

- 1. *Relevance* and buy-in to give the change a try
- 2. The understanding, skills or knowledge required
- 3. The desired behavior modeled proficiently
- 4. Time to process collaboratively and implement the change in new lesson plans
- 5. To feel ownership of the process
- 6. A cognitive/emotional feedback loop w/ results and error correction (from students & colleagues)
- 7. A workplace environment safe enough to make mistakes and grow through them

Complete This & Use It				
Staff	in Partnership with Leadershi			
	1. The relevance and buy-in			
	2. The understanding or skills			
	3. The behavior modeled			
	4. The skills and time for staff to process collaboratively			
	5. A climate of emotional safety			
	6. Staff feeling ownership of the change process			
	7. A feedback loop with			
	results and error correction			

How to Design the Change

FACT: Pervasive social cultures can consistently shape actions THIS way, but not THAT way.

ACTION STEPS: Create ceremonies, teams, rituals, routines, daily and weekly events that reinforce the values, beliefs and actions that anyone at your school will take. Post them up.

Strong Resource: School Culture Rewired: How to Define, Assess, and Transform It (Gruenert & Whitaker) and Learning by Doing (DuFour & DuFour).



What You Can Change

- ✓ Leadership and staff autopsies are done monthly to foster reflection
- ✓ Staff discusses "What went wrong?" and "How do we fix it?"
- ✓ All encourage growth mindsets with weekly celebrations of mistakes
- ✓ Foster the use of reading and reflection, especially the 5 daily questions





5 Why is Change Hard? Adults have countless *false*

Adults have countless **false** assumptions about making changes (they all prevent positive change from happening)



- 1. "If I know about it, I'll do it." (yeah, right)
- 2. "I have the willingness and motivation to do this, so it will happen." (yeah, right)
- 3. "I don't need help or support; I can do it." (ha!)
- 4. "Poverty effects are impossible to overcome in
- school." (the reason other schools succeed is.... ?)
- 5. "I won't get distracted or discouraged." (ha!)
- 6. "If this is **important**, I know I'll do it." (right!)
- "Our students are below grade level, lack parental support and are misbehaved and lazy." (and what you're doing to help them is... ?)

Changing Perspectives Activates the "Brain Biases" of Choice & Value

ehmann, S., & Reimann, M. (2012). Neural Co fersus Money in Product Evaluation. Frontiers

- Neuroscience tells us that changing perspectives alters two areas.
- "Value" activates the medial orbitofrontal cortex and left lateral prefrontal cortex areas of the brain.
- "Choice" activates the left amygdala and left putamen.
- Unless your actions *alter values and then choices*, no mindset was changed.

Change Your Assumptions

FACT: Learning can change our life: writing, reflection, self-talk, learning, reading and mindfulness. The stories of our life have a high predictability of our future behaviors.

ACTION STEP: Staff alternates daily 5 Qs to answer. Use this daily practice of reflection to create dissonance between the present and the "new" behaviors. Reinforce the affirming new behaviors with daily triggers, modified over time.

Strong Resource: Triggers (Goldsmith)

Here is the 5Q Structure That Can Help Foster Personal Staff Growth

- 1) How did I foster optimism and gratitude today? Was it my best effort?
- 2) In what ways did I include and manage the daily interruptions and obstacles?
- 3) How well did I manage my stress today?
- 4) How was I fully engaging in helping each every student (or staff) succeed?
- 5) Identify how I grew and got better today. (personally and professionally)









6 Why is Change Hard?



Emotional issues such as shame, resentment, anger and guilt *inhibit changes*

Over Time, Many Staff May Feel...

- Underappreciated
- Resentful for all the changes forced upon them
- Overworked with endless expectations
- Chronically stressed
- Frustrated by continual curriculum and assessment changes
- Misled or lied to to the point of cynicism



Staff Can Get "Stuck"



Many staff are stuck with their emotions of anger, shame, sadness, guilt and regret. They lack the skill sets to move forward.

Emotions Can Help (or Hurt)

- Positive emotions like optimism and confidence can foster successful teaching.
- For many teachers, there is embarrassment and shame about NOT implementing the changes that they have been asked to make.
- Many have "frozen up" with deep fears of being exposed for failing students and they feel guilt or inadequacy.
- The secret killer of progress is shame. Many teachers are afraid and ashamed to speak up in front of others. A change culture must cultivate open vulnerability without guilt.

How to Change This

FACT: The worst mindset is, "I can't change." There is embarrassment and shame about past actions that have "frozen" teachers with guilt and deep fears of being exposed and inadequate. This secret killer of progress is shame. Many teachers are afraid to speak up in front of their peers and leaders. The culture is rarely safe for it.

ACTION STEP: Pull weeds and plant seeds. A change culture must cultivate vulnerability without guilt. Leaders must model being daring (and failing) greatly and often.

Strong Resources: YouTube TEDx talk on "The Power of Vulnerability" (Brown) and books *The Gifts of Imperfection, Rising Strong* and *Daring Greatly* (Brown)





"Pulling Weeds" Ends the Shame; Getting Yourself "Unstuck"

- **Recognize** the moments of shame
- Share the experiences in a safe environment (with friends or colleagues) "Okay, I said it. That felt good!"
- Reframe the experiences. "Yes, I felt guilt, embarrassment and/or shame. Yes, I am imperfect, yet I am very worthy."
- □ Affirm your inherent goodness, forgive yourself and choose your next step.

Foster "Planting Seeds"



1) Do favors for other staff

- Say "please" often
 Ask about another staff's
- family 4) Say, "Thank you" often
- 5) Keep your word and
- Complete your agreements6) Say, "I'm sorry. That was my fault," at least once a
- week Contribute time to help
- others

What You Can Change

- ✓ Increase leadership attention to each teacher's "personal inner world" to support changing their habits.
- ✓ Strengthen listening to staff to sharing of frustrations and issues. Give staff permission to fail and revise work often.
- ✓ Role model vulnerability and insist on total safety so that the staff gets permission to be vulnerable with their peers.









Studies on Teacher Burnout

On the NIH site, there are over 95 peerreviewed studies on teacher burnout. Over 50% of them were published in the last six years!











What You Can Change

- ✓ Leadership becomes empathic to staff stress. Share that stress is not "out there" but generated from within.
- ✓ Share strategies for reducing stress with small daily habits and relationships.
- ✓ Increase staff sense of control over their daily work experiences though roles in curriculum, assessment and leadership PLUS the time to do it.

Relationships Can Lower Stress: How Well Do You Connect?

Of all the things researchers have discovered about the value of quality relationships, one of the most surprising is that they are strong mediators of stress.



Good relationships diffuse stress and make your life easier.



Gain More Control Over Stress

- □ Take Action (do something!)
- □ Write it Down for Later
- □ 1 Week Rule
- □ Redirect Your Attention
- □ Burn off Energy (play/exercise/walk)
- □ Reframe the Experience
- □ Let it Go / Meditation / Hugs
- □ Talk it Out with a Good Friend

"Talking Points" or Key Thoughts on Last Topic

AGENDA for TODAY **(1)** "Big 7" Change is hard, PDs rarely work, assumptions, 7 Big steps, lack of change systems, shame and chronic stress **(2)** The 3-Way "Supply Chain" for sustainable change: personal, social and system-wide facilitation

3 Decisions: select from evidence-based change options and decide what to get rid of and where to begin next

Summary: The Real Reason that Change is Hard

- Adults have *false assumptions* about making changes that prevent positive change
- The environment teachers work in is chock-a-block with adverse triggers
- Neither adults nor schools typically have the structures, support or use ALL of the "Magic 7" items to make ongoing changes
- Emotional issues like chronic stress, guilt and shame inhibit major changes

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Your Next Steps...

- ➤ Accept that CHANGE IS HARD!
- Success will more likely happen as a result of *purposeful collaboration*, not because of the FORCE applied
- Foster change as a staff decision so that it becomes collective capacity
- Develop systems which address the core issues holding all of us back





Change Facilitators

- People (individually): people can change from within and their changes can change schools
- ✓ Social strategy: people can change other people and those changes change schools
- ✓ System strategy: doing procedures, routines, programs and rituals can change people

Each has their merits. May I suggest you *do all 3 to boost your chances of success?*



















Personal Change Strategies - 1

- 1) Do 1 written gratitude each day
- 2) Develop a habit to invest 15 min./day in improving job expertise
- Identify gaps in your teaching and fix them, predict when you might slip up and make plans to counter the potential problem
- Set gutsy BIG annual goals and then connect your weekly micro goals to your BIG life goals and your personal values

Personal Change Strategies - 2

- 5) Read to yourself (daily) your newly identified passions and goals
- 6) Write out a life narrative predicting the next 3 years 1) IF you improve 2) IF you stay the same; Read #1 to yourself every day
- 7) Remind yourself of future rewards (the good experiences and feelings) you'll gain
- 8) Identify ineffective mindsets like, "Those kids don't want to learn," and change them to "My kids do want to learn when I make my lesson more relevant and engaging."

Personal Change Strategies - 3

- Create a new identity, call yourself a "change agent" instead of a teacher
- Revisit the default options; see the "old you" that you'll become if you don't change
- 11) Subscribe to positive newsletters and read them weekly
- 12) take better care of your stress levels and health so you'll have greater daily energy for personal and work life

Personal Change Strategies - 4

- 13) Use online support systems, such as www.stickk.com for goal getting and www.futureme.org to send ideas and prompts to yourself in the future
- 14) Ensure that at least one of your best teacher friends is a high-performer
- 15) When you lose willpower, forgive yourself and restart. Guilt is bad and demotivating. Read *The Gift of Imperfection*

Write 1-2 Ideas that are a "Yes"



Social Change Strategies - 1

- Change the conversation from complaining that "kids are a pain", to "I am just venting and here's what I will change."
- 2) Staff or student committees that orchestrate weekly activities like 1K Thank Yous in 1 day
- Staff posts up "ideas of the week" in staff lounge. Share what you know with other staff so all build collective capacity.

Social Change Strategies - 2

- 4) Develop a mentorship program with staff to ensure everyone has an "understudy buddy." Do the daily debriefs with them.
- 5) Create a password-protected staff blog for postings of what each staff member is doing each week in the classroom; staff must add one strategy and comment each week.
- 6) Hang out with others (esp. role models) who are focused and likely to keep you going

Social Change Strategies - 3

- 7) Change the identity of your students to "scholars" and staff to "change agents"
- Daily and weekly rituals that celebrate gains with "shout-out thank yous" and "school-wide daily gratitudes" for staff and students
- 9) Use the common success terms like "DNA is not our destiny" and "Brains can change"
- 10) Staff adopts a set of simple agreements as behavior guidelines for the school year





Systemic Change Strategies - 1 For the K-12 Workplace

- 1) Display progress boldly so school gains excitement
- 2) Shrink the change to smallest "bite" as a micro-goal to initiate momentum
- Make the mantra of your school, mistakes OK = more learning = better students!
- 4) Seed the workplace environment w/ visual prompts for positive behaviors
- 5) Share the dream of your school with the media, parents and community

Systemic Change Strategies - 2

- 6) Parent Univ. (8 classes w/ 2 staff/ea.) help parents be better with their children, hold graduation with gowns, pomp and certificates
- 7) Fix the bottlenecks in the system that frustrate staff over and over
- 8) Create a criteria-based system for deciding WHICH of all the system changes you want
- Mentoring (5th> 3nd graders and 4th > 2nd graders for college and job options) and 11th and 12th graders adopt a freshman as a semester-long mentor

Write 1-2 Ideas that are a "Yes"

- How Do High-Performing Leaders Build Effective and Lasting *Change*?
- Leaders understand why change rarely happens. They implement strategies to facilitate the change efforts
- Leaders use evidence based long-term programs to meet student needs
- They start small, with clear criteria for the success and measure progress

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- (2) The 3-Way "Supply Chain" for sustainable change: personal, social and system-wide facilitation
- (3) **Decisions:** select from evidence-based change options and decide what to get rid of and where to go next

DECISIONS: Academíc Programs 1

3 Evidence-Based Programs That Help Title 1 Students Succeed

- CODE WRITING: Students should get one semester of exposure to computer coding (Use <u>https://code.org</u> for Hour of Code, Swift, LightBot or Tynker).
- **CTE Programs:** Career and technical programs keep students highly engaged in highly relevant coursework and help them graduate job ready.
- **Reading Software** consider FastForword[®] by Scientific Learning. There are over a dozen peer-reviewed studies done in schools that show dramatic change.

2 Evidence-Based Instructional Tools Shown to Raise Student Learning

Student Engagement

Foster a wide range of engaging activities, cooperative learning and including students in designing and carrying out the work

Optimism/Hope/Growth Mindset

Build positive attitudes daily. Help every student learn positivity. Teacher role models the growth mindset daily.

Summer and Secondary Title 1 Student Success Ideas

- ✓ Summer Learning Programs that prevent the summer lag; these build academic skills
- ✓ AVID college prep programs (one year to test/ work out the bugs, then expand to all students)
- ✓ **Dual Graduation** enables students to graduate after their senior year with both a high school diploma and an Associates Degree (AA) from a nearby Community College at no extra cost to the student or family

2 Evidence-Based Instructional Tools Shown to Raise Student Learning

Foster Relationships:

Develop more of them, reach every student, use partners, teams and your colleagues. Use "we" and "us", not "I" and "you" in class.

Build Hope & Optimism

Use daily activities to help students learn to see their own lives and the world differently

2 Evidence-Based Instructional Tools to Raise Student Learning

Build Cognitive Capacity:

Use deeper Q & A, teach graphic organizers, problemsolving, memory skills, working memory, writing, computer coding and reading skills.

Use Extensive Formative Assessment:

Use multiple input forms, data stored on tablets, constant, real time knowledge of where every student is at, then teachers can share how to close each student's gap.

DECISIONS: Social Programs & Behavioral Teams 2

Build Better Staff Teams

Build culture, safety and teamwork. Foster stronger teamwork with team goals, team identity, stretch breaks and celebrations.



- Build greater staff trust with more contact, keeping promises and no gossiping.
- Ensure teams develop culture of safety and vulnerability so everyone can vent, be heard, be forgiven and inspired.

How to Build Better Staff Teams

- Create "Process Steps" and post them so all can move quickly from data to decision-making to lesson plans to shared accountability
- Ensure teams meet 4X/mo. (meet 3 times on Student achievement and 1 time on Team-building)
- Support each team member and hold each accountable for their progress and celebrate



3 Evidence-Based Programs That Foster Student Achievement

- ✓ ARTS (music, dance, visual, kinetic arts or theater): Valuable when required for all students 3-5 times/wk. over 2 yrs. w/choices given
- ✓ Afterschool Programs: Promoting Healthy Eating Life Habits and Physical Activity
- Mindfulness Programs have been found to build attention, lower stress and strengthen coping skills

DECISIONS: Social/Emotional Behavioral Programs

3

3 Evidence-Based Programs That Foster Better Student Behaviors

- The Responsive Classroom offers elementary schools practical strategies for bringing together social and academic learning throughout the school day.
- ✓ www.loveandlogic.com focuses on changing the lives of parents, teachers and kids through practical, effective and fun techniques.
- ✓ Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), an evidence-based framework for developing positive behavior, is used in schools nationwide to create a positive climate for learning.

3 Evidence-Based Programs for Better Social-Emotional Character

- <u>www.virtuesproject.com</u> is a global grassroots initiative to inspire: kindness, justice, love, character and integrity in more than 100 countries
- ✓ www.Rezilientkidz.Com/Raising-Highly-Capable-Kids is a 13-week curriculum based on the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets every child needs to grow and mature.
- Capturing Kids Hearts Program: fosters fewer discipline referrals, improved attendance, higher student achievement, lower dropout rates, and higher teacher satisfaction.

Write 1-2 Ideas that are a "Yes"

Time for the Reflection & Closing Process

- ✓ Debriefing at your table
- ✓ Separate debris at table
- ✓ Wait for announcements
- ✓ Whoosh clap

Leaders Do What is Most Important and Do Those Things Well

- Leadership focus is that students must graduate job/college ready (no excuses)
- Each of the changes are structured to ensure that staff know exactly where students are at and what is needed most
- Leaders collaborate with staff for high expectations and increased student learning.

Here is the Structure That Will Transform Your Staff: 5 Daily Qs

- How did I foster optimism and gratitude today? Was it my best effort ?
- In what ways did I make this relevant (for myself, our staff and students) ?
- 3) How well did I manage my stress today ?
- 4) How was I fully engaged in helping those around me succeed ?
- 5) Identify how I grew and got better today (personally and professionally)?





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