Coherence: The Importance of Principal Leadership and Buy-In

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Goals of This Workshop

- Understand the meaning of the word coherence as it relates to community schools
- Understand key research about the role of principal leadership in school improvement
- Meet an award-winning principal and hear about shared leadership and coherence in his Bay Area community school
- Have an opportunity to apply relevant lessons

What do we mean by Coherence?

Coherence in a community school =

Intentional alignment of resource around shared results; coordinated and integrated systems of management
What do we know from research?

In *Organizing Schools for Improvement: Lessons from Chicago*, Anthony Bryk and his colleagues found that principal leadership is an ESSENTIAL ingredient of school improvement.

Effective principals, they found, are drivers of change and have an inclusive leadership style.

Bryk et al. research (continued)

Bryk et al. found that principal leadership interacts with the other four essential ingredients of school improvement:
- Family and community engagement
- Student-centered school climate
- Coherent curriculum
- School-level capacity building directed toward the change strategies

Hillcrest Elementary School: A Case Study

Richard, can you fill in the facts here?
- Community School since XX
- Lead agency: Edgewater Center for Children and Families
- Community School Coordinator: Stefanie Eldred
- Most Recent Award: 2013 Coalition for Community Schools Excellence Award