

Questions for Focus Groups by Role – January 11, 2012

School Staff

Policies

- What exemptions from division policies have you asked for? Received?
(Examples include changing the school day/calendar, release from PD programs)
- What exemptions or policy changes at the division level still need to occur?

Division

- What is your relationship with the division liaison/Internal Lead Partner like?
- Are you able to act based on the best interests of your students? Why or why not?
- Do you feel that the division meets your needs? Why or why not?

LTP

- How do you feel about the concept of Lead Partners?
- What is your relationship with the LTP staff like?
- What does the LTP bring to the improvement effort?
- Do you feel that the LTP meets your needs? Why or why not?

VDOE Liaison

- What is your relationship with the VDOE liaison like?
- What does the VDOE liaison bring to the improvement effort?
- Do you feel that the VDOE liaison meets your needs? Why or why not?

Process and State

- How do you feel about the indicators and requirements defined by USED and VDOE?
- How do you feel about Indistar? Istation?
- Which supports and/or information from the state have been the most helpful?
- What other supports could the state provide?
- What is your biggest fear regarding the improvement effort?

Division staff

Policies

- What policies at the division level have changed?
- What exemptions or policy changes at the division level still need to occur?
- Are there pieces of state code or policy that should be adjusted to better meet the needs of this subset of schools?

School

- Are there practices that were/are being piloted in the SIG school that should be scaled to the rest of the district? Why or why not? What's the timeframe for completion?
- When the school progresses out of improvement, how do you envision the transition process so that results are sustained and continued? (Removal of both funds and supports)

LTP

- How do you feel about the concept of Lead Partners?
- What is your relationship with the LTP staff like?
- What does the LTP bring to the improvement effort?

VDOE Liaison/State Facilitator

- What is your relationship with the VDOE liaison like?
- What does the VDOE liaison bring to the improvement effort?

Process and State

- As an Internal Lead Partner, are you able to act within the division to meet the school's needs?
- How do you communicate with the Superintendent (if different person) and the board?
- How responsive is the board to the improvement efforts?
- How do you feel about the indicators and requirements defined by USED and VDOE?
- Which supports and/or information from the state have been the most helpful?
- What other supports could the state provide?
- What is your biggest fear regarding the improvement effort?

Lead Partners

Process

- In what ways did you underestimate the improvement effort?
- How could you have been better prepared for the work?
- What structural or process changes did you, or your organization, make throughout this past year?
- Who from your organization has contact with the school? For what purposes?
- What has been the most valuable action step/practice?
- What will you change for future intervention efforts? What have you learned?

School

- Does the school leadership team act in the best interest of the students? Give examples.
- Does the school leadership team have the capacity to make the transformation happen and ensure its sustainability?
- When the school progresses out of improvement, how do you envision the transition process so that results are sustained and continued?

VDOE Liaison/State Facilitator

- What is your relationship with the Internal Lead Partner like?
- Does the ILP have the autonomy to follow through on needed changes or supports from the division level?
- What barriers exist at the division level?

VDOE Liaison

- What is your relationship with the VDOE liaison like?
- What does the VDOE liaison bring to the improvement effort?

State

- How do you feel about the indicators and requirements defined by USED and VDOE?
- Which supports and/or information from the state have been the most helpful?
- What other supports could the state provide?