



## CHAPTER 4 TRY THIS: APPLY THE SIX PRINCIPLES OF IMPROVEMENT



This tool helps school and district leaders assess, reflect, and align their current improvement efforts with the Six Principles of Improvement to drive meaningful, sustainable change.

What school-wide or district-wide issue are you working on or would you like to improve?

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Directions: Assess how well your current approach to improvement aligns with the Six Principles of Improvement. For each prompt below, write a brief response. What are you currently doing? What's missing?

### **Make the Work Problem-Specific and User-Centered**

Does this improvement effort address a real problem identified by those closest to the work?

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### **Focus on Variation in Performance**

Are you analyzing differences in outcomes across students, staff, schools, or departments to identify patterns?

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### **See the System That Produces the Current Outcomes**

Are you identifying root causes and system-wide factors rather than placing responsibility or blame on individuals?

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## Use Disciplined Inquiry to Drive Improvement

Are you testing small changes through PDSA cycles rather than jumping to large-scale initiatives?

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## Measure Improvement with Practical Metrics

Are staff using real-time, meaningful data to track progress, rather than relying solely on state-level or benchmark assessments?

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## Accelerate Learning Through Networked Communities

Are teams collaborating across schools/departments to share what's working and refine strategies together?

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## ► REFLECTION

What is one leadership move you could make to better align your work with these six principles of improvement?

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What is your next action step to apply this move?

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