



COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL
INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT



PGCPS/UMD Networked Improvement Communities Project

Project Summary

Building on the foundation of the PGCPS/UMD Improvement Science Collaborative partnership agreement (signed in January 2020) this project will support PGCPS efforts to advance student learning, equity, and school improvement using the strategies and principles of Improvement Science. The project will design and implement two Networked Improvement Communities and support leadership development for principals and administrators throughout the district.

Networked Improvement Communities (NIC)

A Networked Improvement Community is a scientific professional learning community focused on a common aim and disciplined by the rigor of Improvement Science. An effective NIC is guided by a deep understanding of the problem, the system that produces it, and a theory of improvement. The primary work of the NICs includes:

1. **Professional Learning:** Seminars, workshops and/or courses for instructional directors, principals and other central administrators on understanding and implementing the tools of improvement science with a special emphasis on PDSA cycles in schools.
2. **Assessment and measurement:** Needs assessment and data analysis to identify key priority gaps in student learning, inequitable student outcomes, and learning loss.
3. **Problems of Practice & Aims:** Identify problems of practice within the system that are contributing to the learning gaps and conduct root cause analysis of these key problems, and transform these problems into collective aims.
4. **Design and test change ideas:** Design theories of action and test evidence-based strategies that will change systemic practice and impact student outcomes.
5. **Research and Evidence:** Design a UMD led plan to measure the impact of NIC activities on adult behavior, systemic change, and student learning.

The Learning Recovery NIC

This NIC is designed to support and advance PGCPS' recovery efforts by engaging with school and district leaders, teachers, students, and community members to address learning recovery for PGCPS students most in need. The central question it will address is: *How do we effectively embed school and classroom practices into the everyday work of PGCPS to address the learning recovery needs that have been identified as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic?*

The School Improvement NIC

This NIC is to build upon the partnership work with UMD and PGCPS to support and strengthen the School Performance Plan and Improvement Science work being done in PGCPS schools. The central question it will address is: *How do we support school leaders to use the PGCPS School Performance Plan as an effective process to close achievement and opportunity gaps for students most in need?*