

A CONVERSATION ABOUT OUTCOMES – SHARED DEFINITIONS

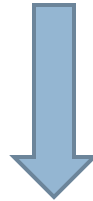
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Full-Service Schools Roundtable

Why have this conversation?

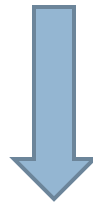
- Because you are committed to creating change – making an impact
- Because you engage in work you do with the *intention* of creating change/impact



Because the only way to know if the work you engage in is creating the intended change/impact is to look at the outcomes.

Putting Outcomes in Context

- Outcomes are part of a larger puzzle – only relevant when there is clarity about goals, beneficiaries and strategies.



*Goals + Beneficiaries + Strategies +
Outcomes/Indicators = Learning*

What Outcomes are....

- The **changes** that occur or the difference that is made for whomever or whatever your organization seeks to affect. (*Innovation Network, 2005*)
- Also known as objectives, impact, results.
- Outcomes answer the questions, “What difference does the program make?” “What does success look like?”

What Indicators are...

- Evidence or information that will tell you whether you are achieving your intended outcomes
 - ▣ Measurable and observable
 - ▣ Answer question, “How will we know change occurred?”

It doesn't really matter whether you can quantify your results. What matters is that you rigorously assemble evidence – quantitative or qualitative – to track your progress. (Collins, 2005)

What's Good for the Goose is Good for the Everybody

- Outcomes are for everybody – any entity seeking to make change
- Examples of multi-entity efforts: Ft. Worth, Indianapolis
- Challenges: Alignment and Access
 - Different entities need different things – while they may share *goals*, they may have different outcomes/indicators in mind
 - Each entity has policies regarding data that make it challenging to share

The Benefits of *Having* and *Tracking* Outcomes

- You will have regular, relevant knowledge about whether and how your work is making the difference you *intend* it to make.
 - ▣ This helps you make decisions about program maintenance, growth, resources, etc.
 - ▣ This is information you can share – tell your story
 - ▣ Make the fundraising case
 - ▣ Hold yourselves organization accountable