

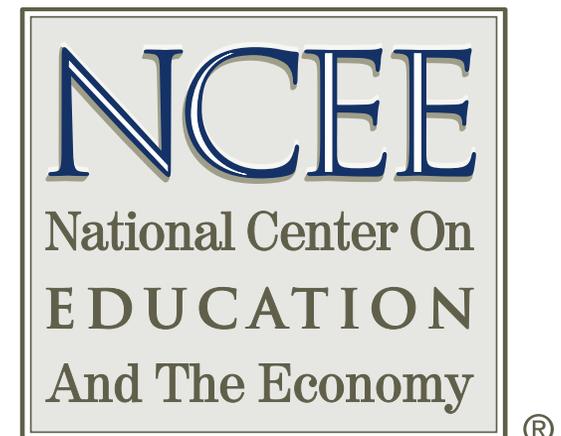
# The Design of High-Performing Education Systems: A Framework for Policy and Practice

International Education  
Study Group Kickoff

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# In This Session We Will...

01

Discuss what this framework is and how it displays a coherent education system

02

Provide an overview of each element of NCEE's framework for high-performing education systems

03

Describe how these elements relate to policy in the U.S.

# What is this Framework?



- Distills more than **35 years** of studying the world's highest performing education systems
- Defines the metrics for the systems we study: **excellence; equity; efficiency**
- Identifies **common components and characteristics** that set the policies and practices of high-performing systems apart, many of which could be adapted for the U.S.
- Does **not** offer specific policy solutions that can be **replicated** whole-sale
- Shows how the components relate, interact with one another, and function **as a system**

# What Does It Mean to Be a System?

From the framework:

“Education systems are not simply collections of independently effective parts and pieces. Effective systems, by definition, are parts and pieces that work in harmony with one another, each one reinforcing and supporting the functioning of the other parts and pieces, and all of them together contributing to the system’s high performance.”

What are some examples of education working well in the United States?

What are some examples of how it does not function well?

# High-Performing Education Systems: Component Parts



Rigorous and Adaptive  
Learning System



Equitable Foundation  
of Supports



Effective Teachers  
and Principals



Coherent and Aligned  
Governance



# Rigorous and Adaptive Learning System

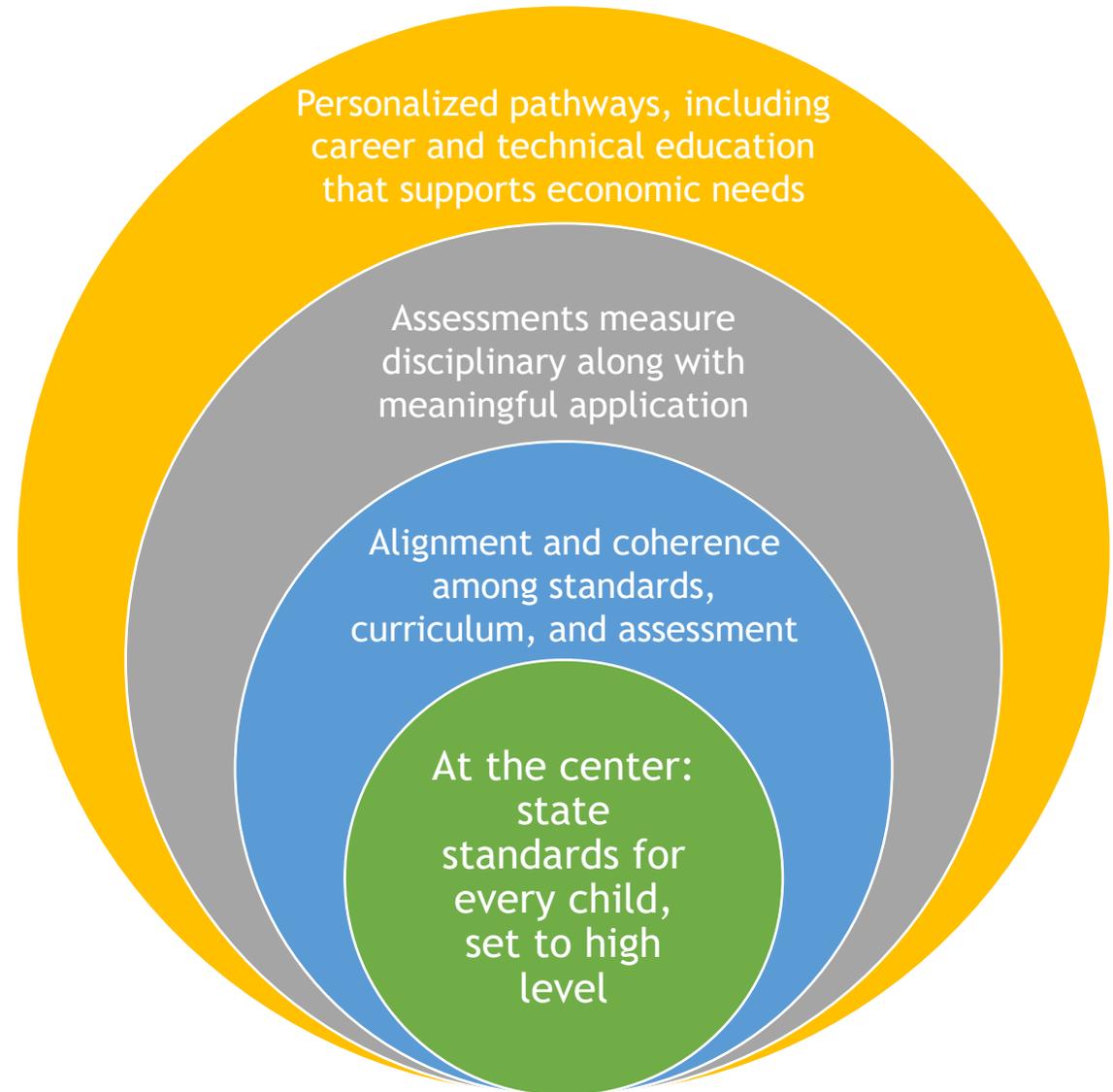
Why a “Learning System”?

What makes high-performing learning systems rigorous and adaptive?

What makes it different from the United States?



# Rigorous and Adaptive Learning System





# Effective Teachers and Principals

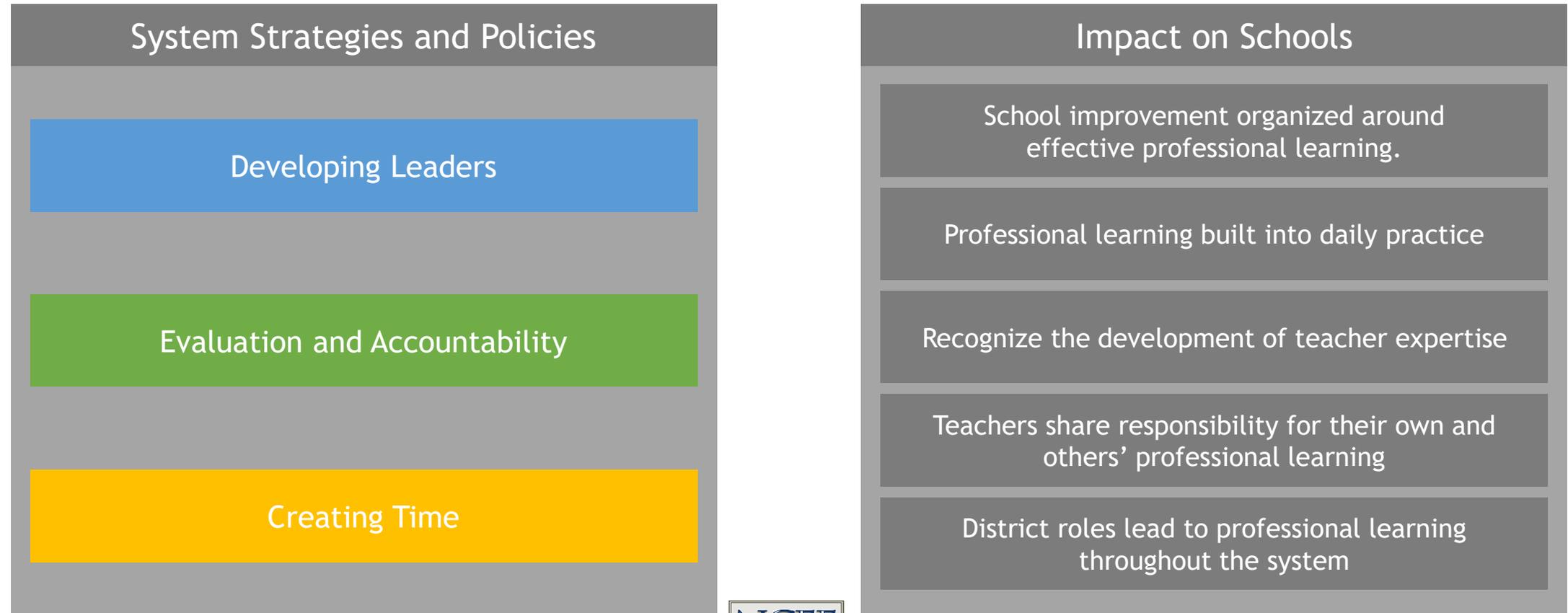
How do teachers develop a strong foundation of skills, content, and action research?

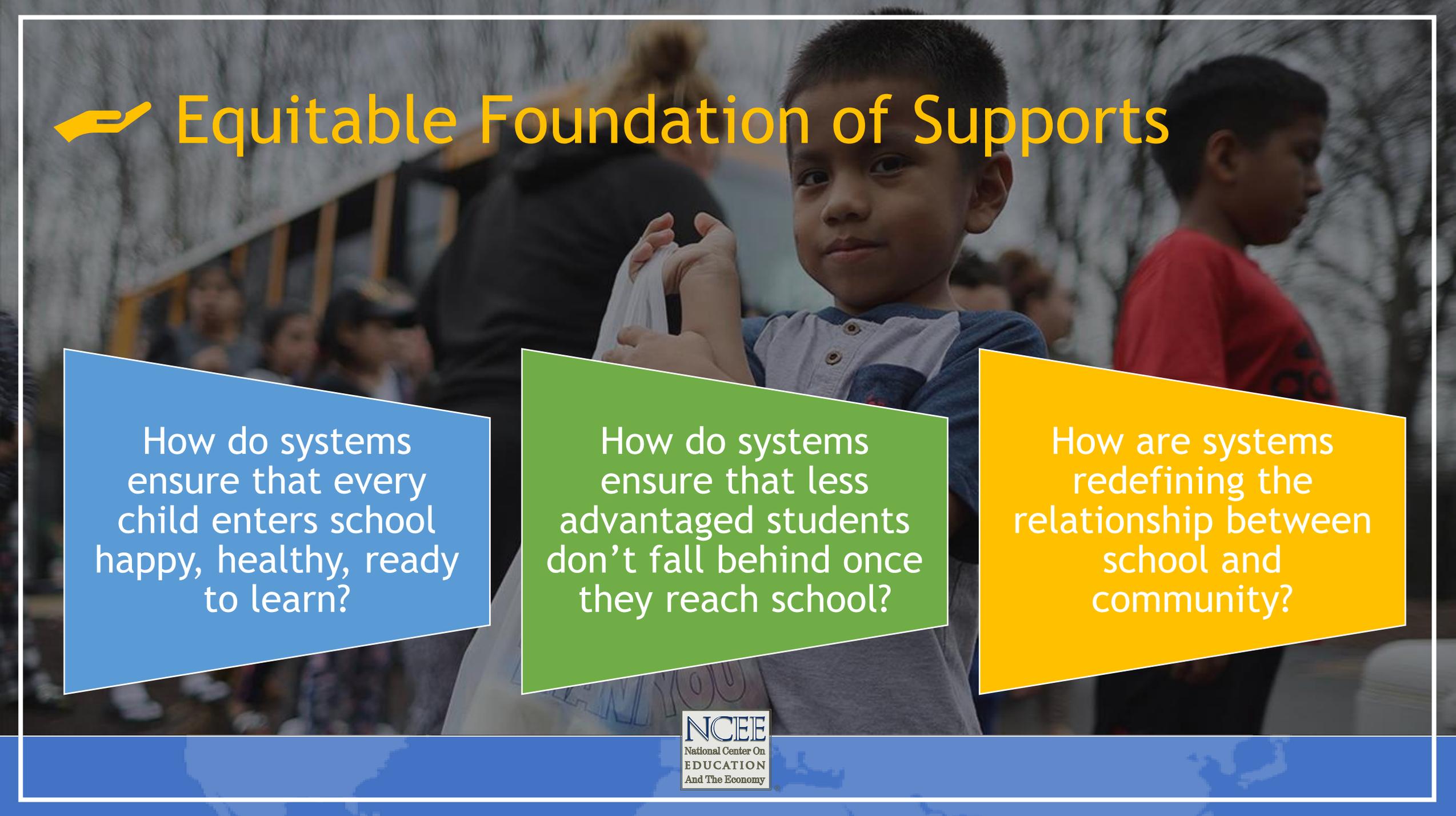
How do principals organize the school day so teachers can do their best work?

How can teachers experience meaningful career growth that rewards the development of expertise?

# Effective Teachers and Principals

Effective teacher preparation is critical. But equally critical is developing teachers on the job to ensure that they get better and better. What does this mean?





# ✎ Equitable Foundation of Supports

How do systems ensure that every child enters school happy, healthy, ready to learn?

How do systems ensure that less advantaged students don't fall behind once they reach school?

How are systems redefining the relationship between school and community?

# Equitable Foundation of Supports



The Equitable Foundation is NOT the same as all the resources that support equity.



Equity is a key metric in our definition of high-performance and infused into every element of the framework.





# Coherent and Aligned Governance

In our introduction to this work, many of you asked:

“How can you compare systems with politics and governance structures like China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Estonia to a fractionated and polarized U.S.?”

These systems - many of them the size of individual U.S. states - are different from the United States. They are different from each other. But there are some principles that are common across them.

# Coherent and Aligned Governance

## In the U.S.

## High-performing systems

Many actors with unclear or overlapping roles



Clear and distinct roles and responsibilities

Limited success in investing significant time in visioning and goal-setting and see it through



Sustained focus on setting clear vision and goals and getting widespread support

Little shared understanding of incentives across the system, lack of emphasis on support and feedback



Emphasis on incentives, supports, and feedback loops

Heated debate between autonomy and accountability



Shared understanding of who gets autonomy, within what parameters, and with what set of supports