



Expanding and Strengthening Best-Practice Supports for Struggling Students

Board of Education Update

April 24, 2017



District Management Group | Helping Schools and Students Thrive

Agenda

Objectives and Project Overview

Preliminary Highlights for Discussion

Next Steps

Q & A



DMGroup's work with U-46 focuses on three goals to raise achievement of students who struggle, with and without disabilities.

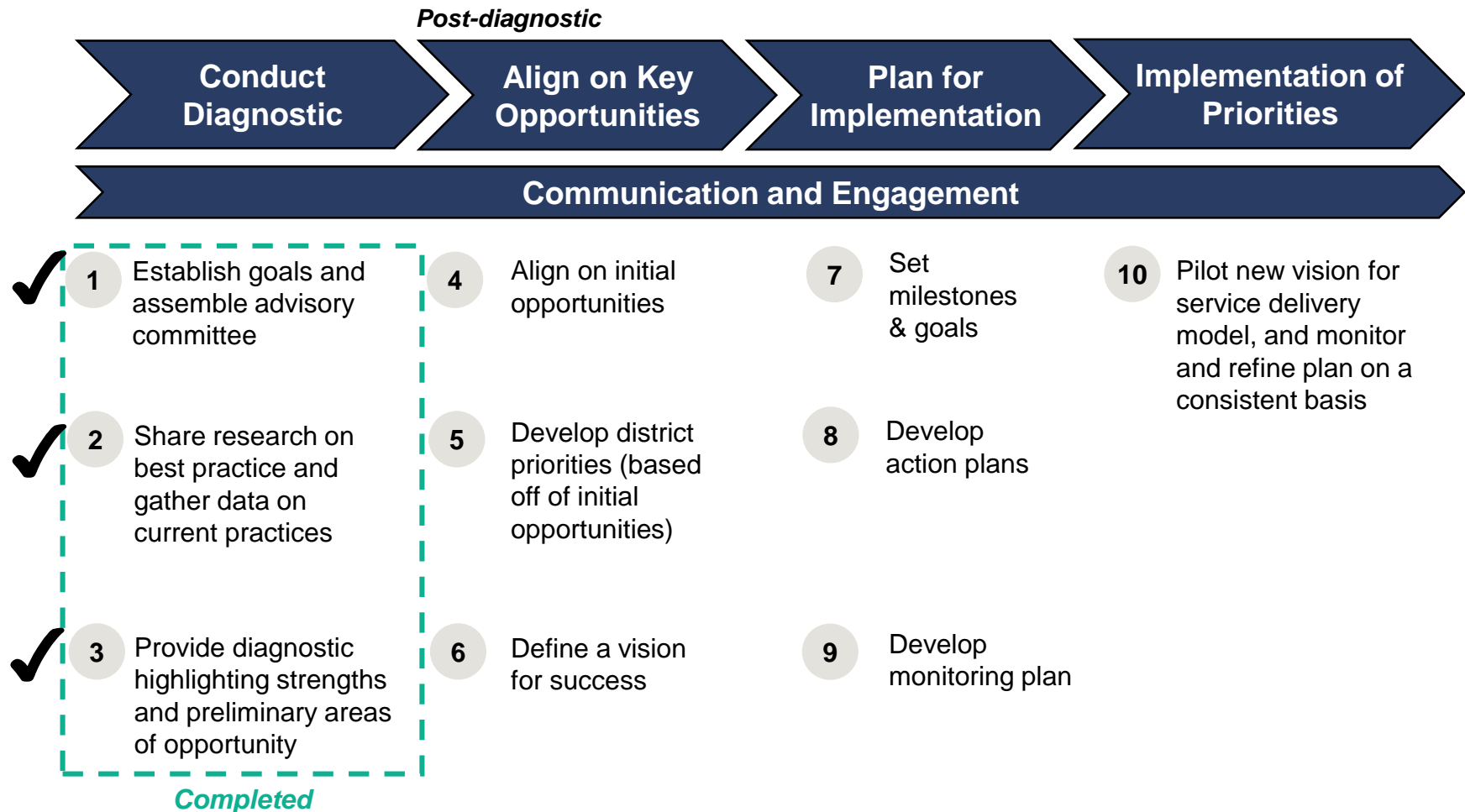
Project Goals

1. Develop an understanding of current practice related to special education, remediation, and intervention in the district.
2. Explore alignment of current practice with best practice research to raise achievement of students who struggle, with and without disabilities.
3. Align staff practices with best practices and effectively manage staffing in order to create sustained change in schools and classrooms.



We have concluded the phase of our work to conduct a diagnostic by sharing the preliminary findings.

Project Overview



The diagnostic combined significant qualitative information and robust data analysis to build understanding of current service delivery models.

Diagnostic Methodology

Qualitative Evidence

- Interviews with district leaders
- Focus groups with representatives from staff roles that work with students
- Classroom observations

Key Findings:

Highest leverage opportunities

Data Analysis

- National benchmarking
- Staff schedule sharing
- Data analysis to address the following key issues:
 - What percentage of service to struggling students is push-in vs. pull-out or co-teaching?
 - How much time is devoted to supporting students directly?
 - What topics are being supported?
 - How many students are being supported at a time?



School District U-46 has many areas of strength to build on.

Commendations

1 Staff and building leaders are passionate and committed to ensuring all students succeed.

2 The district has a robust set of dedicated programs across the district, designed to help students.

3 The district has made a strong investment in additional supports for its struggling learners.

4 The district has made a strong commitment to supporting native Spanish speaking students through its Dual Language Program.

5 The district has made great strides in improving professional development, increasing the breadth and depth of trainings available to staff.



The following opportunities highlight potential focus areas to raise achievement for all students.

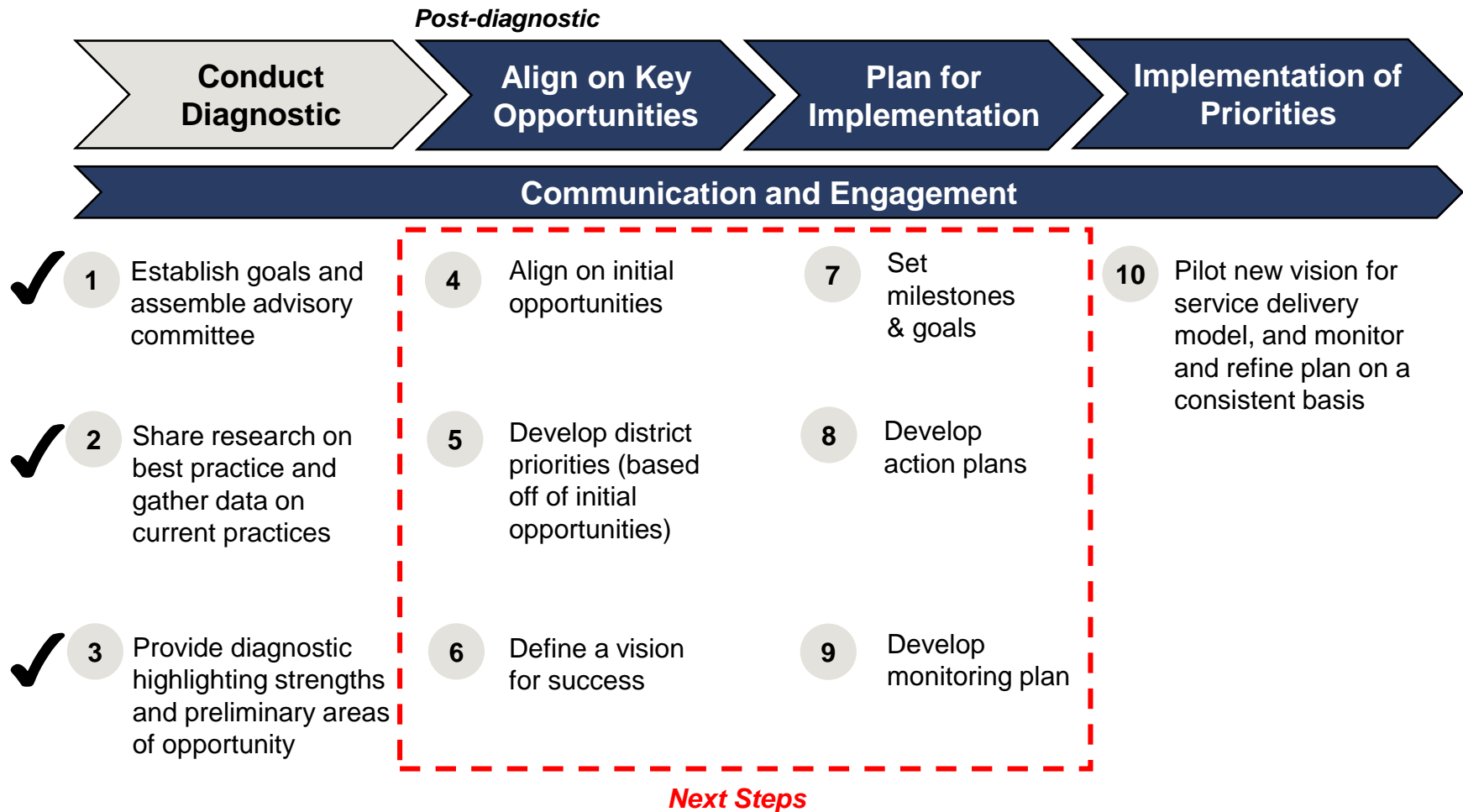
Opportunities for Consideration

- 1 Refine and communicate the district-wide framework and process for multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) and ensure there is a dedicated organizational structure to oversee consistent implementation across the district.**
- 2 Provide additional instructional time for all students who struggle in order to master grade-level content.**
- 3 Ensure interventions for students with mild-to-moderate special needs and other struggling learners are provided by staff with deep content expertise and training.**
- 4 Expand social, emotional and behavioral supports by increasing direct services to students and providing more strategies to teachers.**
- 5 Expand the reach of speech and language pathologists, through refining entry and exit criteria and through thoughtful scheduling.**



With the diagnostic completed, the Instructional Cabinet will align on the initial opportunities and begin to prioritize.

Project Overview



Sharing the preliminary findings with the Instructional Cabinet and principals resulted in a few key takeaways.

Key Takeaways from Instructional Cabinet & Principals

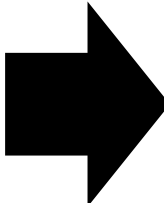
- Opportunities around MTSS (#1), additional-time (#2), and social-emotional and behavioral supports (#4) were high priorities for the district.
- There was an overall desire to align instructional delivery to best practices.
- Similarly, there was a desire to ensure better use of staff time.
- Principals want to continue to be involved in the process.



In the next phase, DMGroup will help the district create a vision for change and communicate to stakeholders.

Role of the Advisory Committee



- Provide direction and materials for Advisory Committee
 - Present best practice research
 - Provide project management support
 - Synthesize recommendations into district-developed plan
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- Champion the effort of defining ideal service delivery model and guidelines
 - Provide diverse perspectives based on members' experiences
 - Provide content expertise
 - Finalize options for consideration by CEO and select leaders



Q & A





District Management Group

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