

Professional Learning Meeting #2/27 – September 14th

- Mission and Vision.
- Operationalizing MEVA's Mission and Vision.
- Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Training Series.
- SY-2026/2027 Assessment Calendar.
- Data Share, Advisory - Dr. Christina O'Grady.
- Advisory Fall Progress - Don Fournier.
- Guidance Update – Dan Pierce and Heather Tyler.
- Other and next PL Meeting on September 21st.

MEVA Mission and Vision

School Mission:

Maine Virtual Academy's (MEVA) mission is to develop **each** student's full potential with learner-centered instruction, research-based curriculum and educational tools and resources to provide a high-quality learning experience for grade 7-12 students who are in need of **alternative educational options**. MEVA will develop an **Individualized Learning Plan (ILP)** with specific learning goals to meet each student's needs. MEVA's rigorous curriculum is **aligned** to the eight Maine content areas, the **Maine Learning Results, the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards**.

School Vision:

MEVA will be a leading 21st century public charter school in Maine and will improve student learning outcomes **through individualized instruction**, as evidenced by **student academic proficiency, student academic growth, post-secondary readiness, and the demonstration of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and self-direction**. MEVA will empower students to acquire the academic and life skills needed to succeed in **post-secondary education and career opportunities**. Our graduates will be **prepared** for college or other postsecondary career training opportunities

Operationalizing the MEVA Mission and Vision

- We work together to facilitate a continuous cycle of **assessment** (both formative and summative), **instruction** (scaffolded), and **support** (feedback).
- Opportunities for students to implement feedback.
- Frequent conversations with students and families to better understand their needs.
- Consistency is key.

MTSS Training Series from MDOE

- **MTSS Professional Learning Series Begins September 29.**
- The Maine DOE is offering a free virtual professional learning series on school-level implementation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), beginning September 29. The series centers on the new MTSS Fidelity of Implementation Rubric, which is being piloted this school year, and monthly virtual office hours offer additional space for questions and conversation. [Learn more and register here.](#)
- From *MAINE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL UPDATE* (September 11th, 2026).

Assessment Calendar 2026-27

Assessment Type	Fall Dates	Winter Dates	Spring Dates
NWEA MAP (virtual) Math & Reading	September 15, 16, 17, 2026 (Makeup Day - September 18, 2026) Grades 9 & 11 ONLY	January 12, 13, 14, 2027 (Makeup Day - January 15, 2027) Grades 7-11	May 4, 5, 6, 2027 (Makeup Day - May 7, 2027) Grades 9 & 11 ONLY
Maine Through Year (ELA & Math)	October 5-23, 2026 Grades 7, 8, & 10	NA	April 12-16, 2027 Grades 7, 8, & 10
MEA (Science)	NA	NA	April 1-13, 2027 (HS) Makeup Window: April 14-16, 2027 (HS) May 10-19, 2027 (8 th Grade) Makeup Window: May 20-21, 2027
MSAA			<i>Tentative</i> March 9 - April 24, 2027
WIDA		<i>Tentative</i> January 5 - March 10, 2027	
ACCUPLACER	September 15, 16, 17, 2026, with makeup	Ongoing	Ongoing



Advisory



Changes

We will be evaluating the effectiveness of the changes with the advisory by:

1. Analyzing Student Attendance
2. Analyzing Teacher Attendance
3. Comparing Teacher-Student Relationship Panorama Survey Results

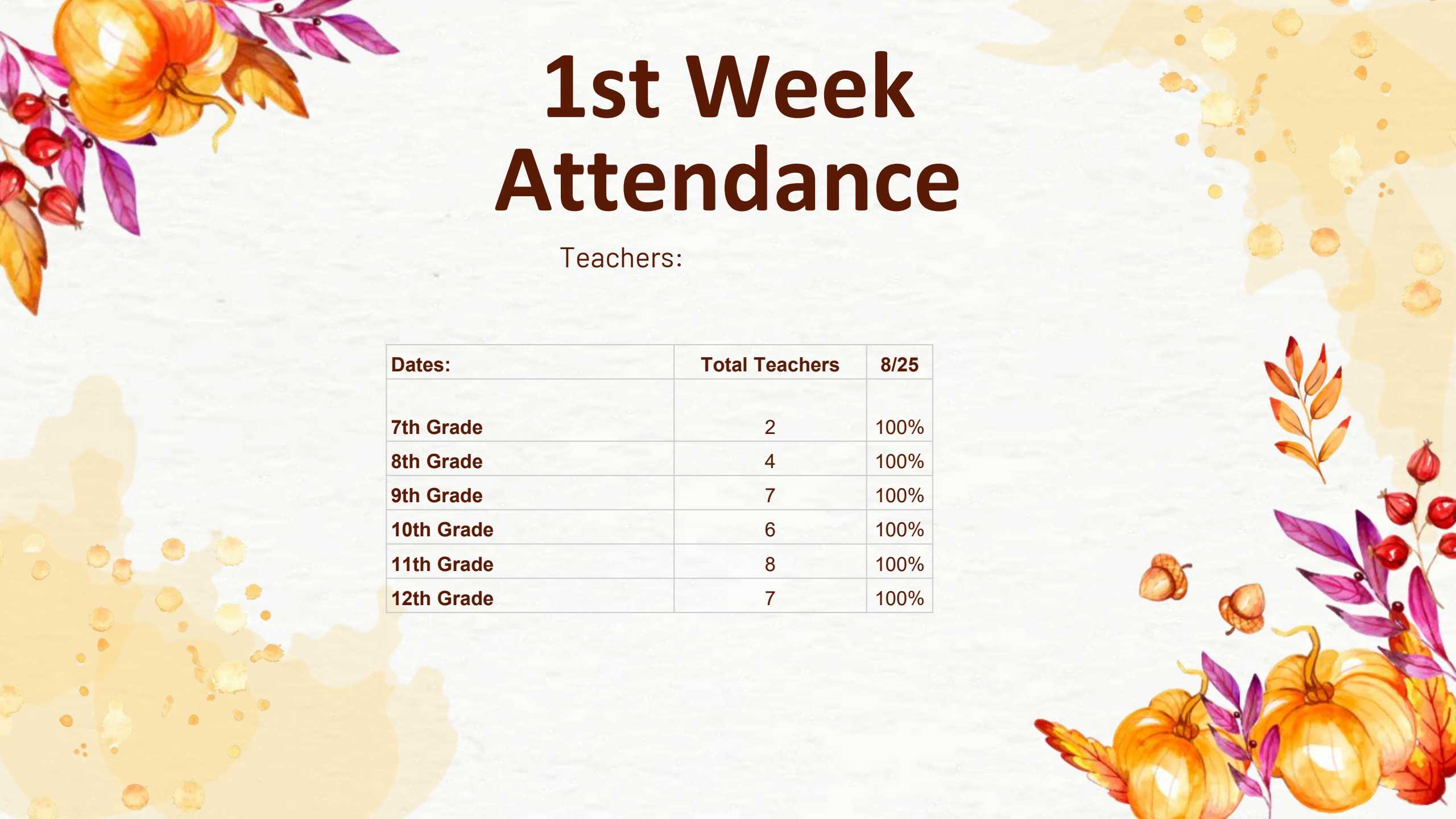


1st Week Attendance

Students:

Dates:	Total Students	8/25
7th Grade	23	83%
8th Grade	46	78%
9th Grade	71	76%
10th Grade	96	63%
11th Grade	126	67%
12th Grade	115	51%





1st Week Attendance

Teachers:

Dates:	Total Teachers	8/25
7th Grade	2	100%
8th Grade	4	100%
9th Grade	7	100%
10th Grade	6	100%
11th Grade	8	100%
12th Grade	7	100%

Assessment Update



Assessment Updates

This is our first time administering the virtual NWEA & i-Ready in this format. We recognize there will be bumps along the way. However, we will collect feedback and try to make adjustments for the spring administration.

All grade levels, every student, is testing this week:

7, 8, & 10th Grade:

Tuesday AM: i-Ready Math

Tuesday PM: i-Ready Math makeups

Wednesday AM: i-Ready Reading

Wednesday PM: i-Ready Reading or Math makeups

Thursday: i-Ready Reading or Math makeups



Assessment Updates

All grade levels, every student, is testing this week:

9th & 10th Grade:

Tuesday AM: NWEA Math

Tuesday PM: NWEA Math makeups or i-Ready Reading

Wednesday AM: NWEA Reading

Wednesday PM: NWEA Reading/Math makeups OR i-Ready Math

Thursday: i-Ready/NWEA Reading or Math makeups



Assessment Updates

All grade levels, every student, is testing this week:

12th Grade:

Tuesday AM: ACCUPLACER Group 1

Tuesday PM: ACCUPLACER Group 2

Wednesday AM: ACCUPLACER Group 3

Wednesday PM: ACCUPLACER Group 4

Thursday AM: ACCUPLACER Group 5

Thursday PM: ACCUPLACER Makeups



What Changed & Where We Go Next

From individual lessons to a connected Grades 7–12 experience



Connection and progression—not simply another administrative step.

Why We Changed Advisory

Making the learning journey visible to students

The problem

Students did not always recognize how Advisory lessons connect across weeks and grade levels.

The response

Make connections explicit so students can see prior learning, today's purpose, and future application.

The shift

- Individual lessons → connected sequence
- Implicit connections → explicit connections
- Potential repetition → intentional skill development
- “What are we doing?” → “Why does this matter?”



The New Advisory Design

Recurring skill strands create a Grades 7–12 progression

Belonging, Identity & Community

Assessment Readiness & Goal Setting

Organization & Time Management

Communication & Self-Advocacy

Self-Awareness, Growth & Resilience

Critical Thinking & Decision-Making

Career & Postsecondary Readiness

Digital Citizenship & Media Literacy

**Across
strands:**

INTRODUCE → DEVELOP → PRACTICE → APPLY → EXTEND → TRANSFER

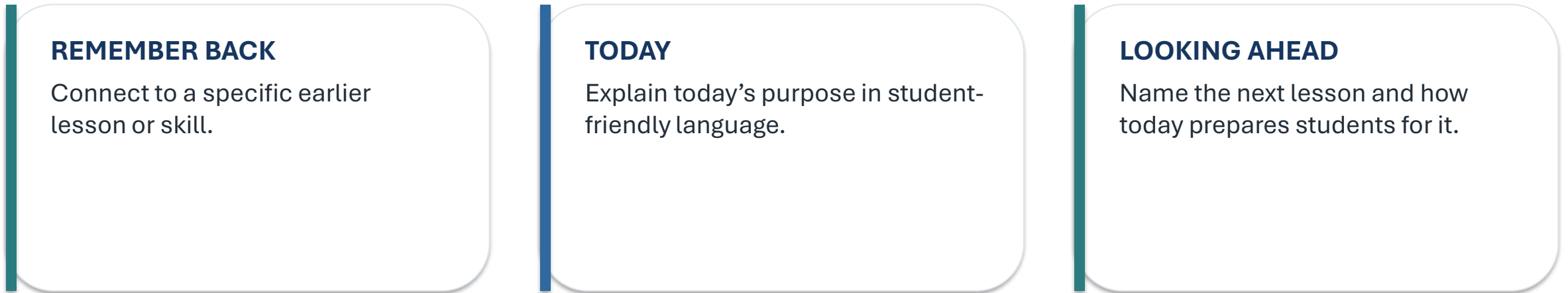
REMEMBER BACK

TODAY

LOOKING AHEAD

The Advisory Connection Slide

A consistent Slide 2 in every Advisory presentation



The connection slide introduces the purpose and progression of the lesson—not replace the lesson itself.

Student activation can occur through chat, poll, brief discussion, or reflection.



What Advisors Do

A simple, consistent implementation process



Slides remain editable: advisors should revise a connection when it does not accurately reflect the lesson.

What Changed for Students?

The intended student experience



Students should increasingly be able to answer:

Where have we been?

“What does this connect to?”

Why does this matter?

“What am I learning and why?”

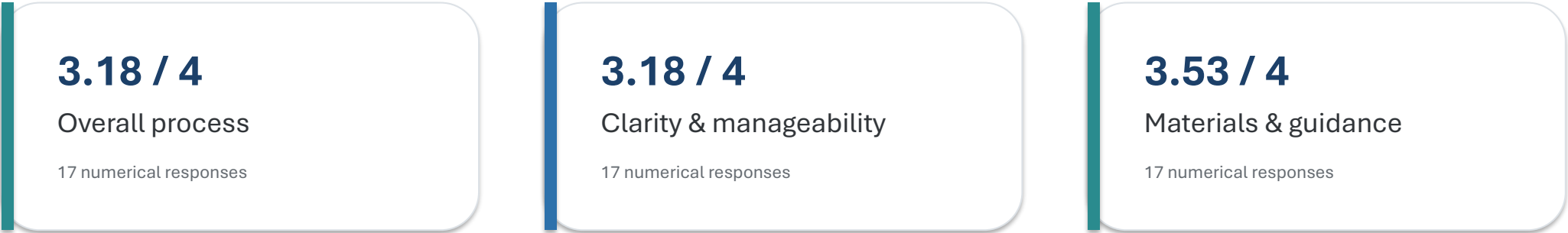
Where are we going?

“Where will I use this again?”

The goal: students experience Advisory as a connected set of skills—not isolated or simply repeated topics.

What We Are Hearing After Week 1

18 staff responses • Early implementation feedback is positive, but still preliminary



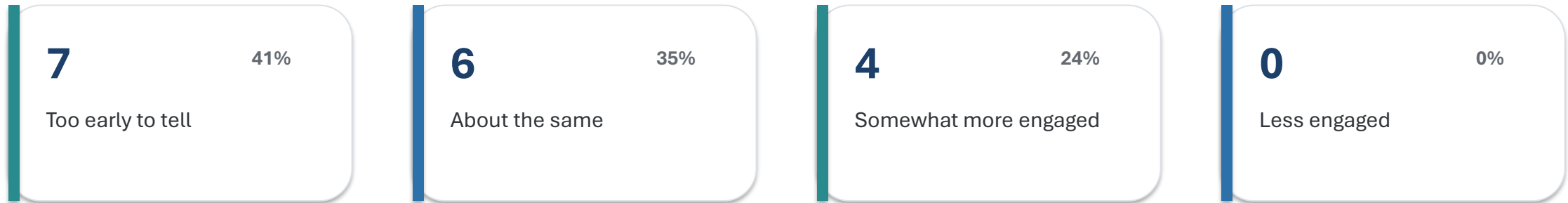
Strongest early implementation signal

Prepared materials and guidance received the highest average rating. No numerical respondent rated this area below a 3.

The ratings suggest the process is starting from a solid implementation foundation—even though teachers have not had enough sess

What Are We Seeing From Students?

The clearest message is not “no change”—it is “we need more time.”



Early engagement signals

- More engagement in chat than usual
- Willingness to respond
- Good Week 1 attendance
- No respondent reported students being less engaged

Purpose & relevance

Responses ranged from “Yes, consistently” to “Sometimes,” “Unsure,” and “Not

What the Feedback Tells Us to Watch

The survey reinforces the design goal while identifying a few areas to monitor

KEEP

Prepared slides, clear structure, discussion prompts

CLARIFY

Asynchronous Advisory and some instructions/pat

ADAPT

Relevance may need more attention for older generations

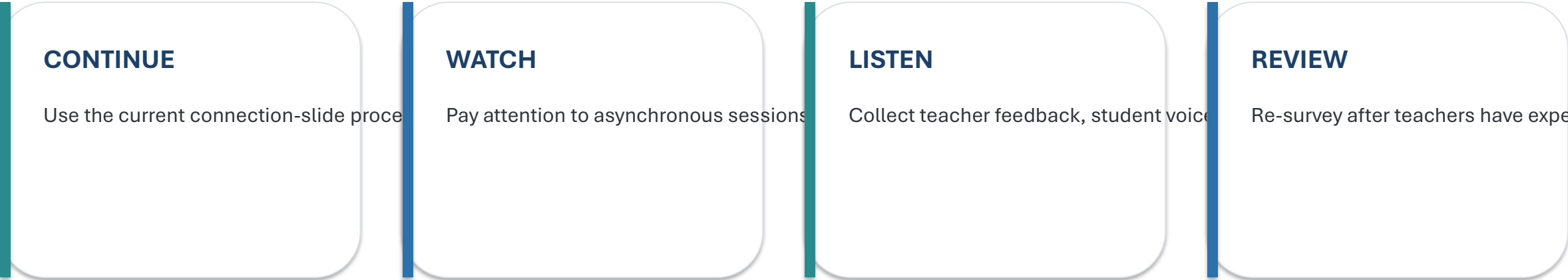
A key caution from staff

Many advisors had facilitated only one session. Several explicitly asked to be surveyed again after more of the process—including asynchronous

→ **Treat Week 1 as a baseline, not a verdict.**

Next Step: Use the First Month as Our Baseline

Continue the process long enough to evaluate the question we actually designed it to answer



30-Day Review Question: **Is the new process helping students see Advisory as connected, relevant, and purposeful?**

NOT MORE ADVISORY. BETTER-CONNECTED ADVISORY.

Student Suicide Prevention

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 10-14 year olds and the third leading cause of death for 14-18 year olds (CDC).
- One in 10 HS students reported attempting suicide within the last year (CDC).
- Approximately 17% of students express suicidal ideation, with approximately 14% completing their plans for suicide (CDC).

What does this mean for MEVA staff?

- Kids express suicidal ideation in various ways in school...it can come up in a writing prompt, in a conversation with a teacher, in a chat with a friend, etc.
- Notify Heather and Dan **IMMEDIATELY** of **ANY** concern!
 - Please include both Heather and Dan in the email. If you do not get an immediate response call/text Dan: 207-861-1431 or Heather: 207-613-6196. We drop everything to attend to these situations.
- This is crucial...even if the student has asked you not to tell anyone, even if you are unsure, even if the student tells you they have already told their parent....notify us no matter what. **If you have a student in a session with you and they say something concerning, do not release them, contact us immediately so that we can connect with them.**

Other updates...

- If a student mentions that they need a form signed to attend an in-person school event such as a dance, etc. please have them reach out to their counselor.
- **SCHEDULES:**
 - Even though the school year has started we continue to make several changes to schedules as a result of meetings, add/drop, college course sign ups, etc.
 - Please continue to check the scheduler as we will update in that document.
 - Please place students in periods as reflected in the scheduler.
 - We are still accepting new students and will be adding students to your classes.
 - With the volume of scheduling we are doing now we may not email you each time we make a schedule adjustment. Once the school year is in full swing we do a much better job of emailing you each time!
 - Thank you for your patience as we continue to work to get kids where they need to be!

Other

- Other and our next Professional Learning (PL) Meeting is on Monday, September 21st via Zoom at 3:00 pm.
- **Indigenous Peoples Day is Monday, October 12th**. Please cancel your live sessions to suit.
- MEVA virtual high school graduation on **Friday, June 4th at 2:00 pm**. MEVA virtual eighth grade recognition ceremony on **Friday, June 11th at 11:00 am**.
- Looking ahead, the Last Day of School is **June 11th**.
- PL Meeting Materials are posted at:
<https://www.mainevirtualacademy.org/essaesserlau-elresources/meva-professional-learning-pl-meeting-materials>
- Thank you for all that you do to support your colleagues, your students, and their families.