

June 11, 2024



# Today's Objectives

- Review 107a Criteria & Design Lab Process
- Review Current State of Adult Education
- Identify Factors Impacting Adult Learning
- Provide Resources and Strategies to Develop a Needs Assessment



# Today's Agenda

Welcome and Introductions	30 min
Section 107a Grant Opportunity	45 min
What is the Design Lab?	15 min
Break	10 min
Restoring the Promise of Adult Education in Michigan	50 min
Lunch	30 min
Adult Learner Variability	110 min
Break	10 min
What is a Needs Assessment?	60 min



# Let's Align on Some Norms for Working Together Throughout the Design Lab



#### **Meeting norms:**

- Curiosity and candor are encouraged.
- Practice leaning in (participate) & out (watch your airtime).
- Remote First: We will be "<u>Remote First</u>" and provide an online participant the opportunity to engage first (Note: Raise your virtual hand).



#### Zoom norms:

- Rename yourself to Name + Org.
- Mute your mic to reduce background noise, unless you're speaking.
- Keep your video on, when possible.
- Raise your virtual hand using the "Reaction" button (quick introduction each time with name & organization).
- Use the chat function to document any questions or comments (we're monitoring the chat).



#### **Room norms:**

- Raise your hand (quick introduction each time with name & organization).
- Avoid side conversations.



# Design Lab Team



Alex Andrews

TalentFirst



Colleen McInerney

TalentFirst



Erica Luce LEO-WD

Sandra Thelen *LEO-WD* 





## Meet Your Coaches



Meg Chamberlain

Public Policy

Associates



Suniya Farooqui

Public Policy

Associates



Colleen Graber

Public Policy

Associates



Rob Linden

Public Policy

Associates



MaryBeth Talbot

Public Policy

Associates



Dirk Zuschlag

Public Policy

Associates



# Let's Get to Know Each Other

- Name, Organization
- Share 1 problem you're trying to address with your innovation
- Share 1 thing you want to get out of the Design Lab



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## **Adult Education Innovation Grants**

Section 107a of the State School Aid Act (Public Act 320 of 2023) allocated \$15M for Adult Education Innovation Programs.

- A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released May 9 to support innovative approaches that lead to increased participant enrollment and completion of adult education programming.
  - Purpose: To pilot evidence-based and scalable innovations and complement Section 107 funding.
  - Innovation programs should align with the priorities for the adult education system identified by LEO-WD.
- Applications are due in NexSys by 11:59p.m. on August 6, 2024.
- More information can be found on the LEO-WD Funding Opportunities <u>page</u>.



## **Adult Education Priorities**

The Adult Education section within the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, Workforce Development (LEO-WD) has identified the following priorities for the adult education system:

- 1. Expand access to adult education services in Michigan.
- 2. Ensure equity in the delivery of adult education services.
- 3. Ensure adult education services are high-quality and utilize best practices and evidence-based research.
- 4. Build equitable career pathways to high-wage careers and expand access to integrated education and training (IET) programs.
- 5. Increase the number of adults in Michigan with a secondary credential.



### **Innovation**

Sec. 107a.(1) cites examples of innovation, including but not limited to *synchronous* and asynchronous program delivery methods, wraparound support, alignment between high school completion with postsecondary education, co-locating adult education with Michigan Works! or community colleges, and high-quality professional development.

- The innovation is specific to region/provider but not necessarily the adult education system.
- Applicant must demonstrate how the innovation is based on existing research and best practices.
- The innovation must lead to achievement of the defined goals.
- Must be a new activity or strategy not currently funded under State School Aid Act, Section 107.



# **Eligible Providers**

- Eligible applicants include districts, intermediate districts, and community colleges that currently receive Section 107 funding and have experience serving adult learners.
- Adult education providers that are not a district, intermediate district, or community
  college must apply in partnership with a district, intermediate district, or community
  college that will serve as the fiscal agent for the funding.



66

From the state school aid fund money appropriated in section 11, there is allocated for 2023-2024 only an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000.00 to the department of labor and economic opportunity to create **authorized postsecondary** adult education innovation programs.

Section 107a.(1)







Please submit any questions regarding the Sec. 107a Adult Education Innovation grants to <a href="mailto:LEO-AdultEd@michigan.gov">LEO-AdultEd@michigan.gov</a>.



Email

LEO-AdultEd@michigan.gov



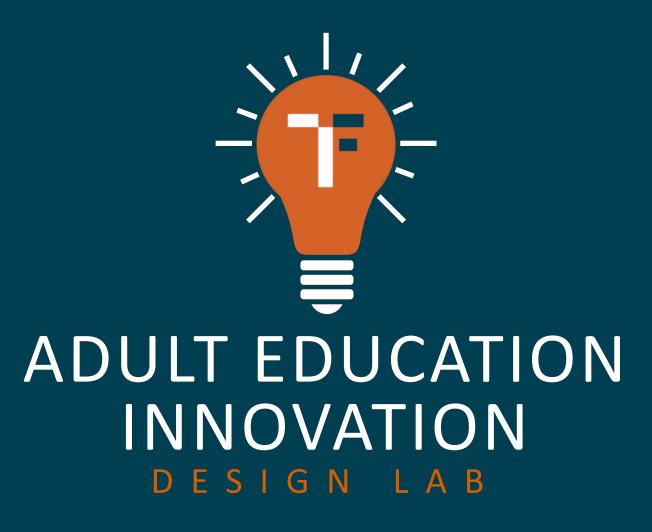
#### Website

https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureausagencies/wd/funding-opportunities

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# Why?

**Sec**. 107(a) is a one-time opportunity to pilot and scale new models leading to better outcomes for adult learners.



# Why?

Assist eligible applicants with capacity and technical expertise to develop competitive proposals for the Section 107(a) RFP – resulting in sustainable and scalable innovations that improve outcomes for adult learners.



# Why?

Think Big.

Take Risks.

Transform Tomorrow, Today.





Encourage Innovation & Risk-Taking

Design Lab Goals



Maximize Number of High-Quality Proposals



Foster Collaboration & Knowledge-Sharing



## What is it?

The 2-month design sprint includes:



#### 4 Workshops

Address each element of your application with technical support and resources from our workshops.



#### 4 Coaching Sessions

Develop and refine your proposal with individualized coaching from Public Policy Associates.



#### **Peer-to-Peer Learning**

Collaborate, partner, and learn from other practitioners across the nation.



#### ADULT EDUCATION INNOVATION

#### **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

Workshop 1

Addressing the Whole Learner Lansing, MI

6/18 Workshop 2

Ensuring Equitable Access & Maximizing Partnership Potential

Grand Rapids, MI

7/02 Workshop 3

Leveraging Data to Identify **Gaps & Evaluate Success** 

Detroit, MI

Workshop 4

Mitigating Risk & Sustaining Change

Mount Pleasant, MI

Individualized coaching will be available to applicants between each workshop.

> SCANTO SIGN UP FOR COACHING



#### **YOUR GOALS**

subsequently develop a proposal to be considered by LEO-WD for a Section 107a grant, each applicant will work with TalentFirst and Public Policy Associates to complete the following elements during the 2-month

Needs Assessment

Quantify the size of your adult learner population, evaluate your program data to identify gaps and barriers experienced by your learners.

Asset Map

Detail local resources and potential partners in your community that you could leverage to enhance your proposed innovation.

Work Plan

Review your plan to evaluate and improve your current delivery mechanism to achieve higher enrollment and completion rates, including plans to mitigate risk and scale your innovation.

Success Measures

Articulate a clear vision of success with metrics to capture how your innovation will improve employment, education, and/or quality of life for participants.

**Sustainability Plan** 

Develop a clear and realistic plan to sustain your innovation after grant funds exhaust in 2026.



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# During the Design Lab, We'll Work Through an Iterative Process



DEFINING THE PROBLEM



IDENTIFYING ROOT CAUSES



**ENGAGING PARTNERS** 



ENVISIONING SUCCESS



MITIGATING RISK & SUSTAINING CHANGE



STRATEGY 01

What problem are we trying to solve?

What's the scale of the problem in our community?

2

STRATEGY 02

What are the barriers?

Which barriers can we address through our innovation?

3

STRATEGY 03

What partners do we need to engage?

What assets can we leverage in our community?

4

STRATEGY 04

What does success look like?

How do we measure it?

5

STRATEGY 05

What risks can we anticipate?

How will we proactively address them?

What our process for sustaining the innovation?

Workshop 1

Workshop 2

Workshop 3

Workshop 4



# Design Lab Workshops & Coaching Schedule

	Date	Time	Coaching Session Dates
Workshop 1	Tuesday, June 11	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	June 12 – June 17
Workshop 2	Tuesday, June 18	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	June 19 – July 1
Workshop 3	Tuesday, July 2	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	July 3 – July 16
Workshop 4	Thursday, July 17	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	July 18 – July 26

The final coaching session can be used for general Design Lab-related question or as a proposal review session.



# Let's Take a Break



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# Restoring the Promise of Adult Education in Michigan

STRATEGIES TO MAKE MICHIGAN A LEADER IN PREPARING ALL ADULTS
TO SUCCEED IN A KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN ECONOMY

# Research purposes



Meeting Talent Needs



**Generational Benefits** 



Michigan as a National Leader



# Without intervention, adults without foundational skills will continue to fall further behind...

#### Headwinds in Michigan:



An aging and retiring workforce



Historically low birth rates



Negative net migration



Rise in automation & Al

#### **Current State of Adult Basic Education**

**710,197** adults in need; **25,275** are served

2x more likely to be out of the workforce, unemployed, and in poverty

78% drop in funding since 2000

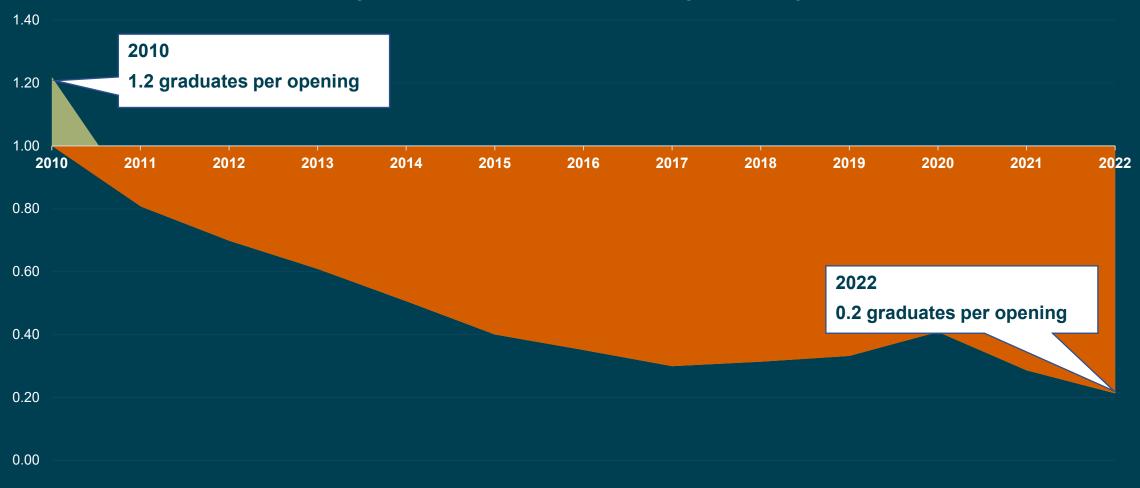
1 in 2 exit with skill gain, but disparities persist:

- 1 in 4 if displaced homemakers
- 1 in 5 with transportation barriers
- 1 in 6 with transportation + ELL
- 1 in 3 if Black



# Today, Michigan produces 1 graduate for every 5 job openings requiring a credential

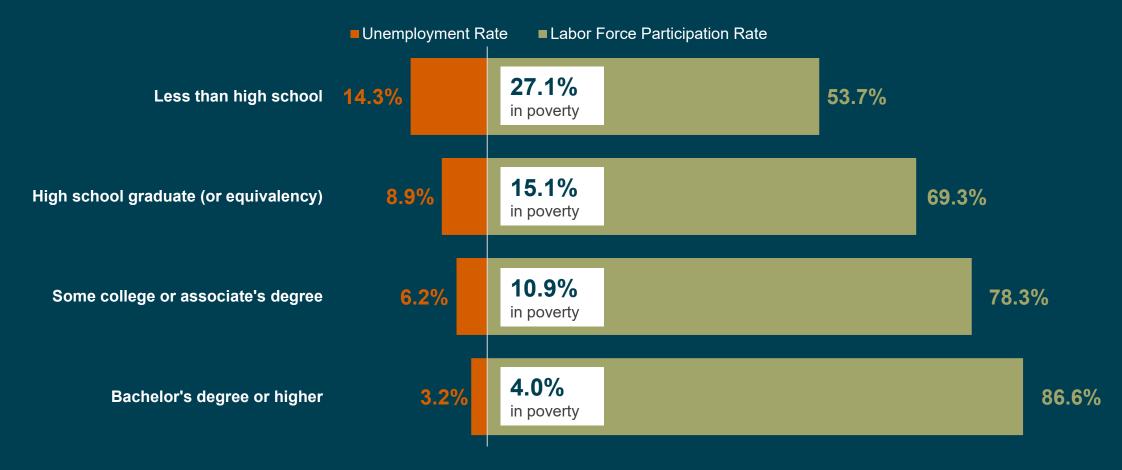
Ratio of Michigan Graduates per Job Opening Requiring a Credential





# Strong economic case for education

Labor Force Participation and Unemployment by Education, Ages 25-64, Michigan, 2022





# Project overview

Literature Review

Stakeholder Input:

Expert Interviews, Provider Survey, Learner Focus Groups

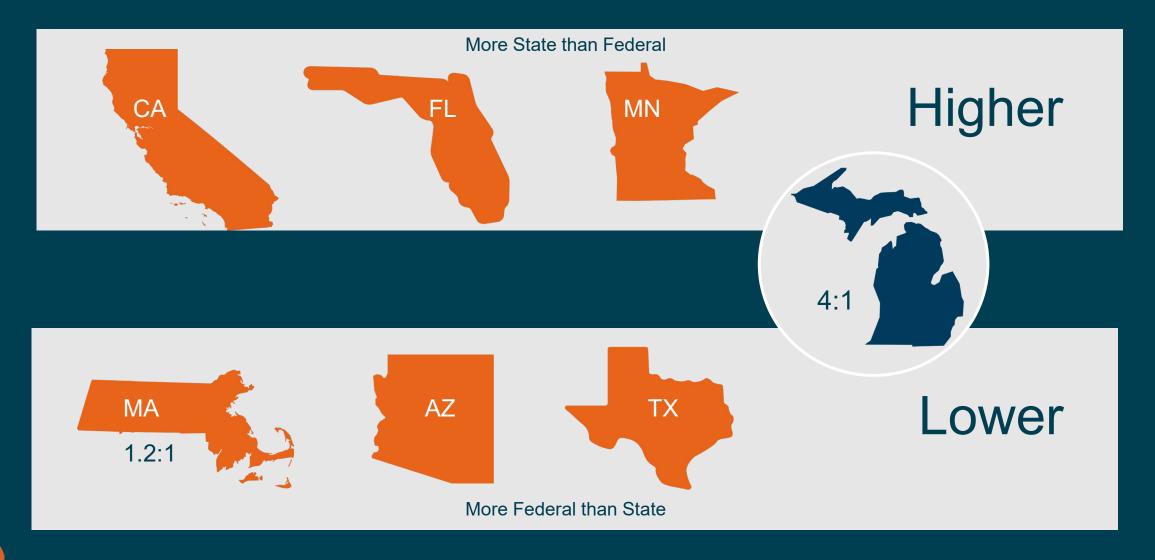
What is the current state of adult ed in Michigan? How can Michigan improve?

**MAERS Data** 

Other States' Approaches



# State to federal funding ratios (2018-19 Data)





# Key results from the states comparison

- WIOA heavily influences adult education
- Shared emphasis on adult education as part of workforce productivity
- Centralized and decentralized systems can operate effective adult education, relying on partnerships and local presence
- Common focus on IET and career pathways, although with varying degrees of implementation
- Adult education is underfunded compared to need



# Michigan Opportunities



# Identifying the gaps

Alignment

Visibility & Respect

Awareness & Capacity

Employer Engagement

Consistency & Equity

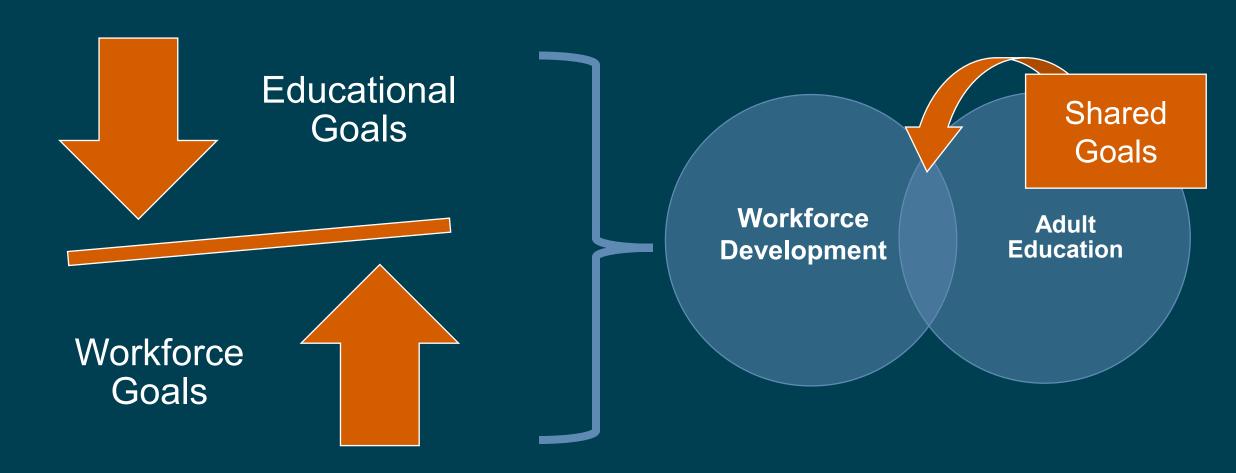
Learner Persistence

Meaningful Data

Resource Expansion



# Linking adult education and workforce development





# Visibility and respect

# Undervalued and Misunderstood

- Increased knowledge of adult education services
- Elevated position in the overall education workforce development field

2/3 of providers do not feel respected by K-12

**94%** of providers think K-12 and adult education differ significantly

**88%** said adult education instructors should have specialized training

**76%** agreed to a great extent that adult education is a fundamental part of career pathways



# Awareness and capacity

# Getting the Word Out

- Currently only serving 3.6% of population in need
- Marketing by word-of-mouth (friends and family) is not enough
- Need to overcome capacity limitations

**53%** of providers said most their learners find out about them from family or friends

81% have sufficient outreach for current capacity

10 of 29 indicated space prevents them from expanding

9 of 29 staffing is a barrier to growth

11 of 29 said dedicated funding would help them expand



# Employer engagement

# Partnership Potential

- Incentivizing learning
- Providing a place for instruction
- Better connections to employment and advancement

**52%** feel very little or no respect at all from the business community

**38%** currently partner with for-profit businesses

17% offer classes at an employer's site

**52%** say that very little or none of employer input is incorporated into curriculum



# Consistent, equitable services

# Reaching All Learners

- Service accessibility
- Format and schedule flexibility
- Effective curricula

**72%** offer hybrid

**72%** offer fully remote

75% offer classes in summer

10% offer classes on the weekend

21% said curricula needs improvement



# Learner persistence

# Whole Learner, Human-Centered

- Transportation and childcare supports
- Contextualized learning
- Peer support

69% said learners have challenges with a work-life balance

**56%** assist with transportation

8% assist with childcare

**56%** have challenges keeping learners motivated



# Meaningful data

# Data that Reflects the Complex Context

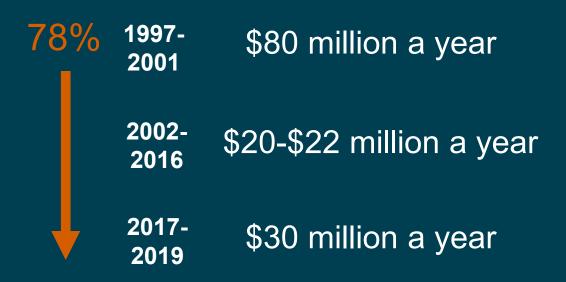
- Metrics that account for different learner types and goals
- Tracking of students over time and learner stage
- Data sharing across systems, like postsecondary and employment outcomes



# Resource expansion

# **Underfunded and Constrained**

- More funding to improve services
- Greater funding flexibility:
  - Who can receive funds
  - What funds can be used for





# Research-Driven Strategies for Michigan



# Research-driven strategies



# **Systems Integration**

Align existing resources, maximize partnership potential, and improve data quality



# **Educator Supports**

Increase compensation and legitimacy of workforce (credential); more opportunities for professional development



# **Funding**

Increase funding and spending flexibility; encourage outcome-based funding (beyond WIOA measures)



# **Learner Services**

Increase access to adult education programs and tailor programs to individual barriers and goals



# Every adult deserves a solid foundation

Foundational skills (literacy, numeracy, digital skills) lead to better quality of life, economic mobility, and access to postsecondary education (Reconnect, Going Pro, etc.).

### Life, Family, Community

Every adult has the foundational skills to:

- Access healthcare
- Manage their finances
- Engage in the community
- Be politically active
- Navigate social services
- Support their children (school, work, life)

### **Employment + Continuing Education**

Every adult has the foundational <u>and</u> <u>occupational</u> skills to:

- Find and maintain a good paying job
- Access postsecondary education
- Advance in their careers



# Access the report



SCAN ME







# Restoring the Promise of Adult Education

Strategies to Make Michigan a Leader in Preparing All Adults to Succeed in a Knowledge-Driven Economy

March 2023



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# **Adult Learner Variability**





# Presented by



Jessica Jackson
Director of Professional
Learning Learner Variability
Project

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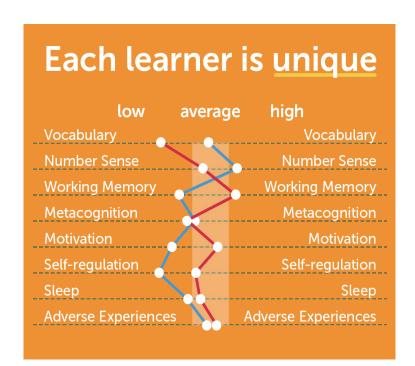
Learner Variability Project



# **Overview**

- What is learner variability?
- What does it mean for adult learners?
- How to use the Learner
   Variability Navigator
- Deep Dive on Factors that impact adult learners
- Examples of strategies in practice for adult learning
- Scenario based Discussion

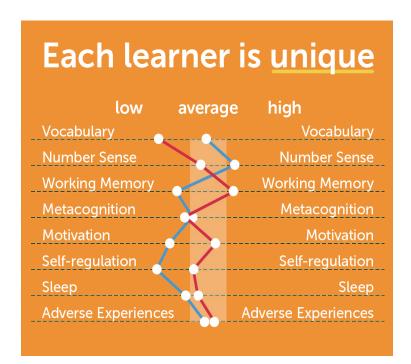
# What is Learner Variability?



Learner variability is the recognition that each student has a unique set of strengths and challenges across a whole child framework that are interconnected and vary according to context.



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# **The Context Principle**

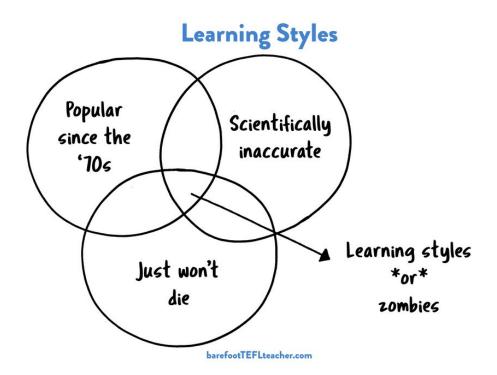
When two introverts meet and ironically act like extroverts with each other



Powered by

The Learner Variability Project

# The Myth of Learning Styles







"When we understand learner variability, instructional challenges become a design problem, not a learner problem."

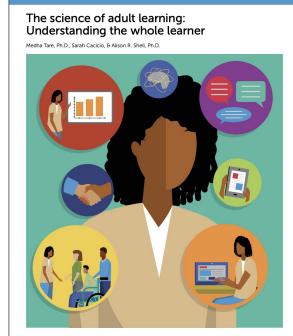
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Learner Variability Project

# What the Research Says

Continuous learning is a part of our everyday lives and include the need to develop
 21st century skills

2. Adults must see the benefit of learning tasks to fully engage.

3. Adults bring many assets to their learning including extensive background knowledge.







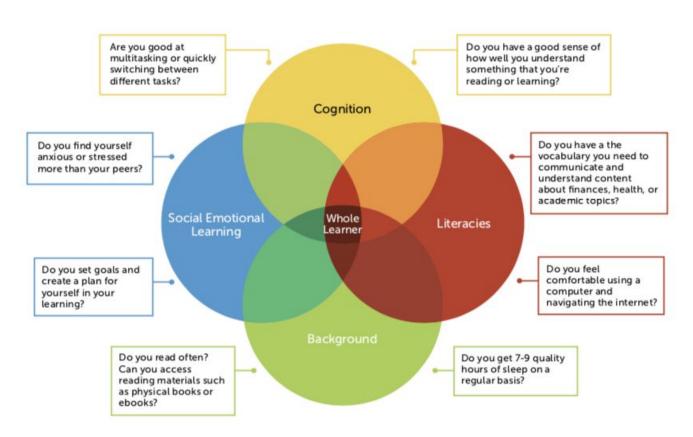
# **Meet the Learner Variability Navigator**



lvp.digitalpromiseglobal.org



# How do you experience learner variability?



# **Designing for the Whole Learner**

- Consider personal motivations, content knowledge, cognitive traits, prior schooling experiences, and linguistic and cultural resources.
- Help participants make meaningful connections by providing different options for sharing their experiences and giving opportunities to reflect on their learning as it relates to their own goals.





# 1. Promote Instructors' Mindset toward Equity

Focused on creating an inclusive learning environment, with emphasis on how to cultivate empathy, deepen your own cultural awareness, and create a sense of belonging.







# 2. Support Learner Mindset

This set of strategies is focused on fostering **growth mindset** in adult learners, including engaging in productive struggle.

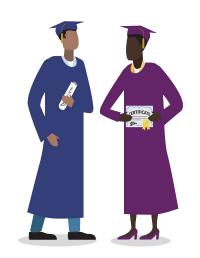






# 3. Support Reflection on Learning

This set of strategies is focused on ways to support learners in **setting and monitoring goals**.







# 4. Explicit Instruction on Digital Skills

This set of strategies is focused on building **basic computer skills**, including supporting online reading.







# **5. Promote Active Learning**

This set of strategies is focused on **learning-by-doing**, or experiential learning.







# **Examples of Experiential Learning In Action**

# Examples of Experiential Learning

01 Case Studies

02 Role Plays

03 Create Documents



Creating Art







### Learner Profile 1: Rosa, Advanced English Learner

Rosa is a 22-year old advanced English Learner who is working to complete her high school equivalency diploma in English. She has been in the U.S. since she was 16 years old and aspires to work as a nurse. Rosa's speaking and listening in English is very advanced, but she still seems to struggle with reading comprehension. She has disclosed that she was diagnosed with ADHD in high school but did not receive many services apart from English as a Second Language classes. She often seems distracted in class and needs things to be repeated. She often offers to model basic skills you've demonstrated but has frequently missed the explanations, and struggles to demonstrate them. She is a very eager and motivated learner and often encourages her classmates but sometimes expresses a lack of confidence. She is very skilled in using her Smartphone but is intimidated by laptop applications.





### What stood out to you about Rosa's story?

Rosa is a 22-year old advanced English Learner who is working to complete her high school equivalency diploma in English. She has been in the U.S. since she was 16 years old and aspires to work as a nurse. Rosa's speaking and listening in English is very advanced, but she still seems to struggle with reading comprehension. She has disclosed that she was diagnosed with ADHD in high school but did not receive many services apart from English as a Second Language classes. She often seems distracted in class and needs things to be repeated. She often offers to model basic skills you've demonstrated but has frequently missed the explanations, and struggles to demonstrate them. She is a very eager and motivated learner and often encourages her classmates but sometimes expresses a lack of confidence. She is very skilled in using her Smartphone but is intimidated by laptop applications.

### **Potential Strategies to Support Rosa**

Reference the Guide for strategies or share new ones.

- Cultivate empathy through "empathy interviews": Set up one-on-one meetings with Rosa to learn more about her life and experiences. Try to gain a deeper understanding of what motivates her and how you might support her in focusing on the skills she needs to meet her goals.
- Build basic computer skills. Assign practice lessons and activities to help her build skills so she can be more successful in class demonstrations.
- Create a community of practice. Create small groups of learners to always work together to help each other and share struggles to help boost her confidence and tap into her encouraging approach to others.
- Learn about accessibility strategies for the classroom on the PANDA website.





# Questions

Jessica Jackson, Director of Professional Learning

jjackson@digitalpromise.org





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# Developing a strong proposal

Part 1. Needs Assessments and Root Cause Analysis
TalentFirst Design Lab — 10 June 2024





# Adult Ed Innovation proposal at-a-glace

PROPOSAL SECTION	PTS
Participating Agencies & Key Personnel	10
Needs & Priorities	10
Program Overview	20
Participant Outreach & Access	10
Performance & Outcomes	10
Timeline of Grant Activities	10
Project Management	5
Capacity & Prior Experience	10
Sustainability	5
Risk Mitigation	5
Disclosure of Subcontractors	5
TOTAL	100



# As coaches we provide advice on technical and methodological aspects of your proposal

### Such as:

- Needs Assessments
- Root Cause Analysis
- Asset Mapping
- Process & Work Plans
- Setting goals & establishing timelines
- Sustainability plans



# Getting started: Conduct a needs assessment

- A needs assessment is a systematic examination of the gap between the current state and desired state and the factors causing that gap. It's also:
  - A **tool** for stakeholders to understand the context and constraints of the system.
  - An **opportunity** to discover strengths and challenges to inform growth and improvement.
  - A process to successfully identify and understand the root cause of educational challenges so they can be effectively addressed.



# Elements of a successful needs assessment

- Built around an organizing framework that defines the problems to be addressed.
- Reflective of local organizational context.
- Diversity of perspectives sought and integrated throughout the entire process
- Establish respect, transparency, and buy-in



- Multiple data types and sources: quant/qual, inputs, outputs, demographics
- Data are valid, reliable, clean and trustworthy
- Determining themes and priorities is a group effort
- Representatives from all levels within a community are included to share perspective.





# **Root Cause Analysis**

# **Root Cause Analysis**

A helpful tool for solutioning around needs

- 1.Clearly **define the problem** you are trying to address.
- 2.Gather and **analyze data** from various sources to better understand gaps between current and desired future state.
- 3.Brainstorm to **identify possible causes** to the problem.



- 4. Analyze possible causes to **identify** their roots.
- 5. **Develop solutions** that address the root causes.
- 6. Implement proposed solutions, monitor their effectiveness, and adjust over time, as necessary.



# There are many approaches to root cause analysis

Today we will introduce you to two:

- 1. The "five whys" exercise
- 2. The "fishbone" or Ishakawa diagram



# Simple example: Imaginary County ISD's GED classes

#### Data we have:

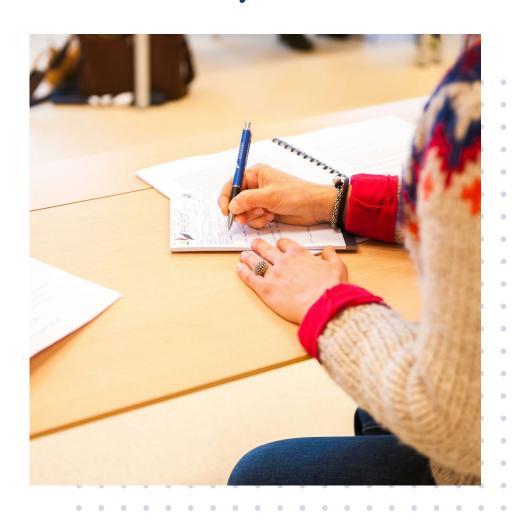
- Number of students requesting classes
- Number of students enrolled/capacity
- Student demographics, characteristics, & experiences
- Number of instructors
- Instructor demographics, characteristics & training
- Completion rates

### What we interpret from that data:

- Enrollment capacity roughly matches demand
- Instructors are high quality but prefer teaching in person and have limited availability during nontraditional work hours
- 40% of all students complete their GED, but this percentage varies by demographics
- Only 20% of working students complete their GED

Clearly there is something going on for working students, but how do we identify an appropriate solution?





# Root Cause Analysis for ICISD's GED Program

### **Purpose:**

Identify root causes of low completion rates for working students to identify opportunities to innovate and improve.

#### **Problem statement:**

Program completion rate is low for all students, but especially for working students.



# Example 1. The "five-whys"

Why is the completion rate low?

Why do students drop out?

Why do they face time constraints?

Why does work affect their participation?

Why are classes scheduled during work?

Students drop out

Time constraints

Many work more than full time

Class scheduled during work hours

No evening classes for working adults



# Example 2. The "five-whys"

Why is the completion rate low?

Why do students drop out?

Why do they face time constraints?

Why does work affect their participation?

Why do students have to work so hard?

Students drop out

Time constraints

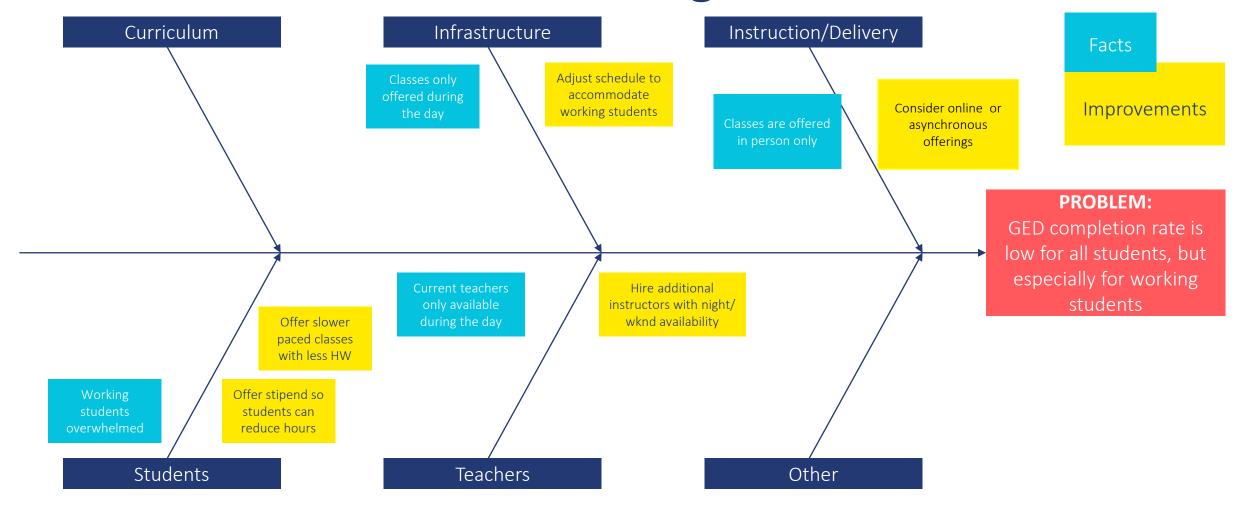
Many work more than full time

Students are overwhelmed with work

Can't afford to reduce work hours

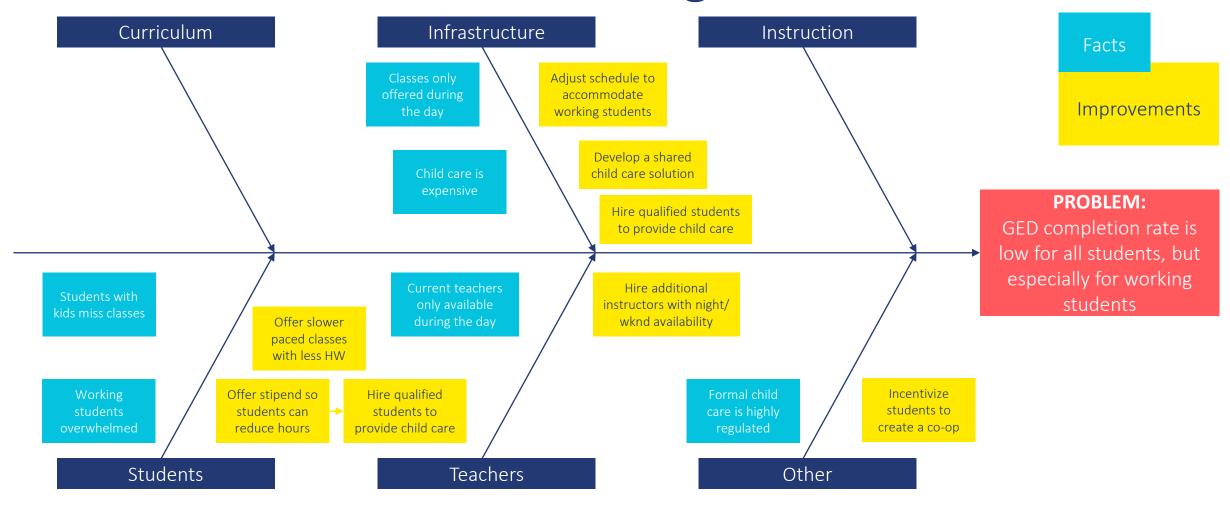


# "Fishbone" or Ishakawa diagram



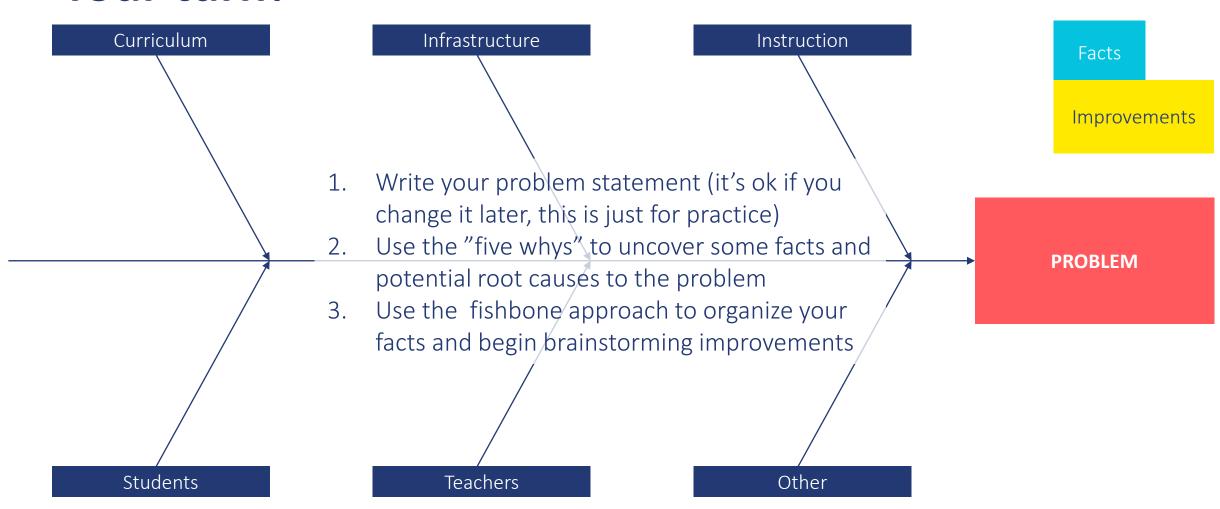


# "Fishbone" or Ishakawa diagram





# Your turn!





# **Key takeaways:**

- 1. A successful needs assessment requires more than just one or two people behind closed doors; it requires active and meaningful engagement of all concerned stakeholders
- 2. Root cause analysis identifies the areas where innovative solutions can be implemented
- 3. Others?



# THANK YOU!

517-485-4477 publicpolicy.com



# Next Steps

- 1. Sign Up for Coaching Session 1
- 2. RSVP for Workshop 2 (June 18 in Grand Rapids)
- 3. Refine your root cause analysis

# Zoom Info (if partners are virtual)



Meeting ID: 881 5959 5696

Passcode: 296675

