



*Lighting our path to stellar learning*

Illinois State Board of Education  
Center on Innovation & Improvement

# Part One: A Simple Tool

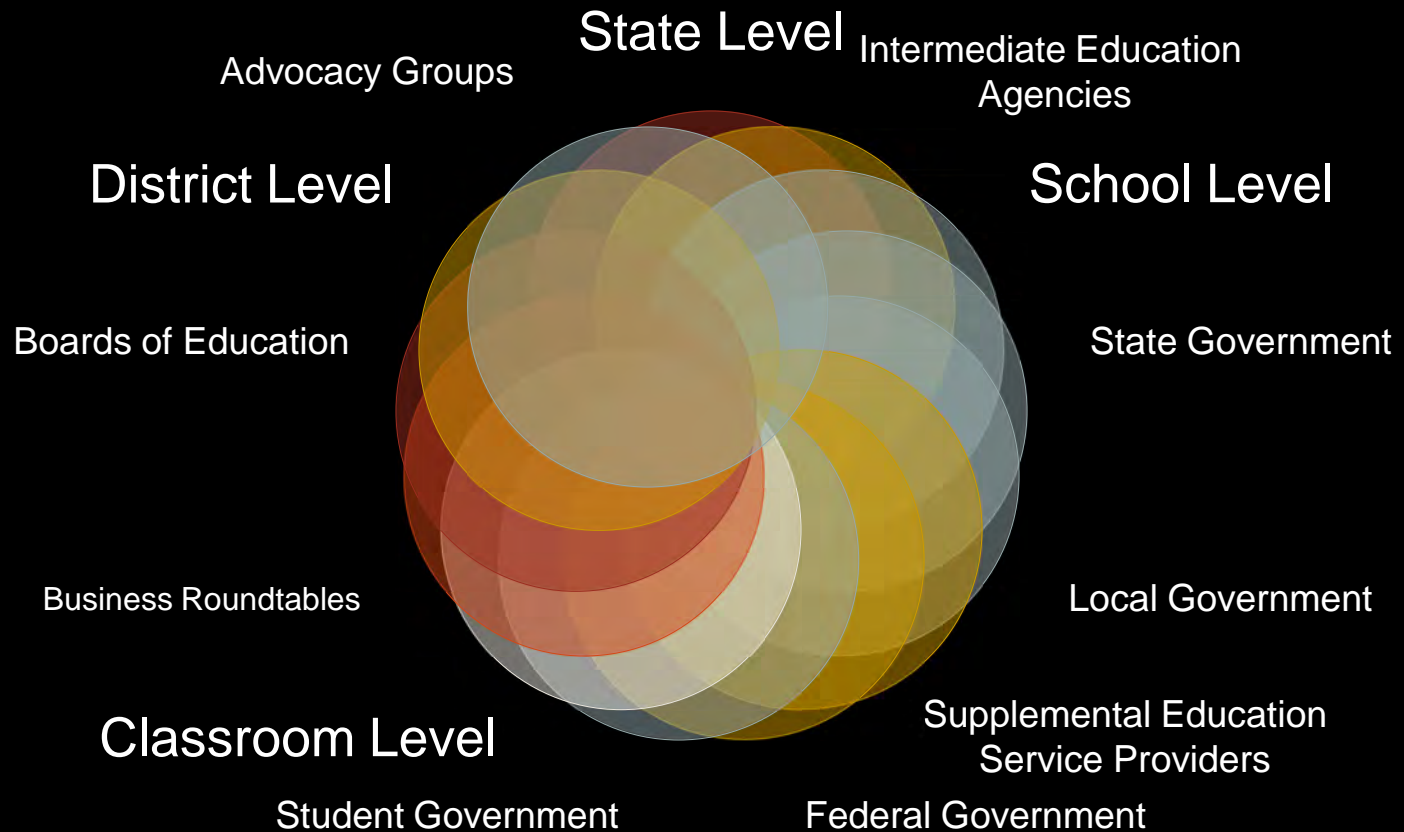
For a Complicated Job

Things were getting complicated.  
Things were getting complicated.  
Things were getting complicated.  
Things were getting complicated.  
Things were getting complicated.  
Things were getting complicated.



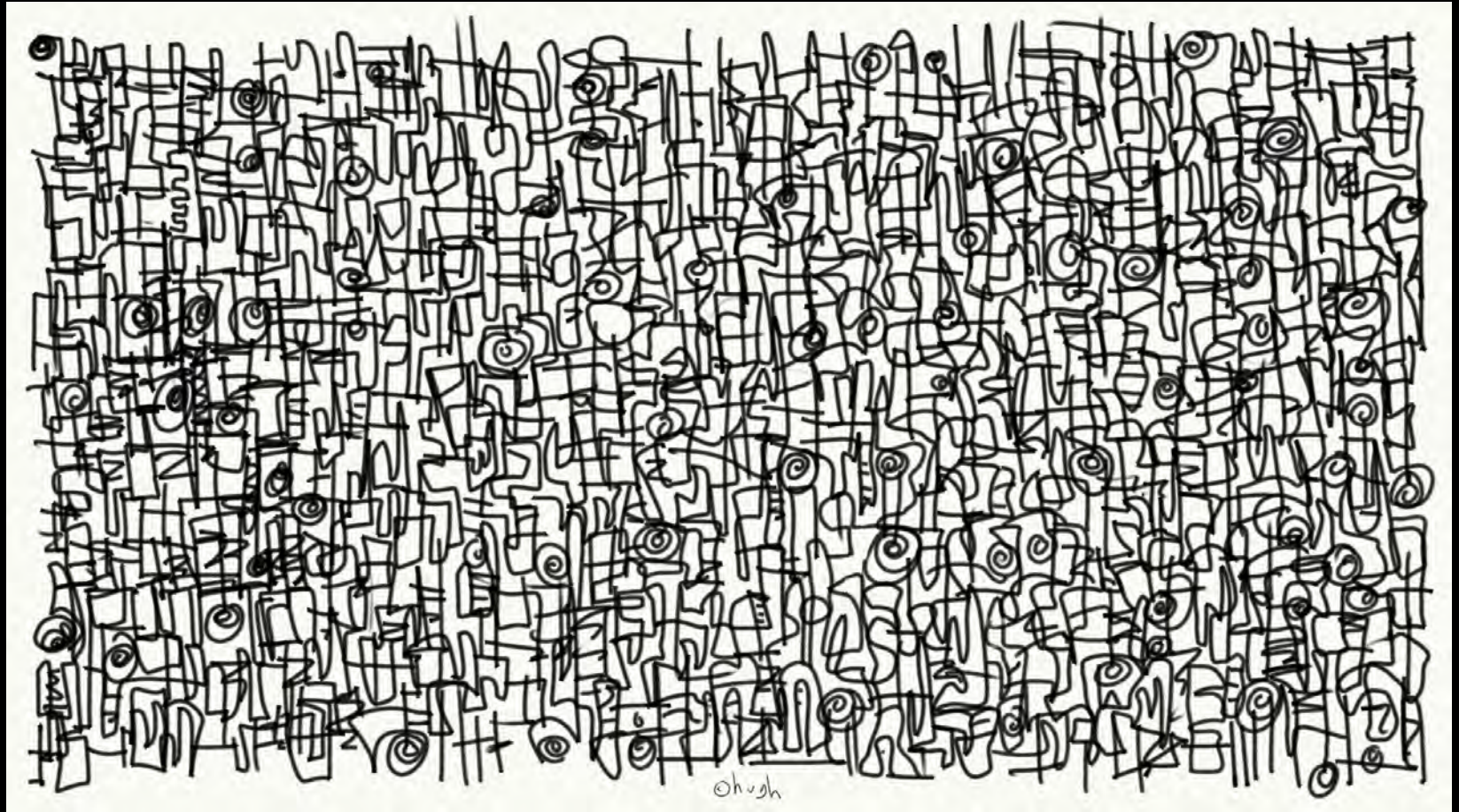
# Improving Schools Is A Complicated Pursuit

# Lots of People Want to Help



But Have Different Ideas  
About How

# So Lines Get Messy



It's Sort of Like the Old Days of  
Family Vacation...

(When You Got Lost)



You Knew Where You  
Wanted to Go

But You Weren't Quite Sure How to Get There  
(although everybody had an idea)





The policeman pointed the way Harold was going anyway. But Harold thanked him.

Sigh.

# Scream.

We can't go on like this...



(These Days, We Don't Have To)

Acquiring Satellites...

# Look Familiar?



# A Global Positioning System (GPS)

- Shows where you are relative to your destination
- Provides detailed routes for reaching it
- Adjusts to variations and even accommodates diversions along the way

But the destination remains constant.

Family Vacations Have Never Been  
More Relaxing

(For the Most Part)

# A Performance Positioning System (PPS)

Works in much the Same Way, Only  
for School Improvement



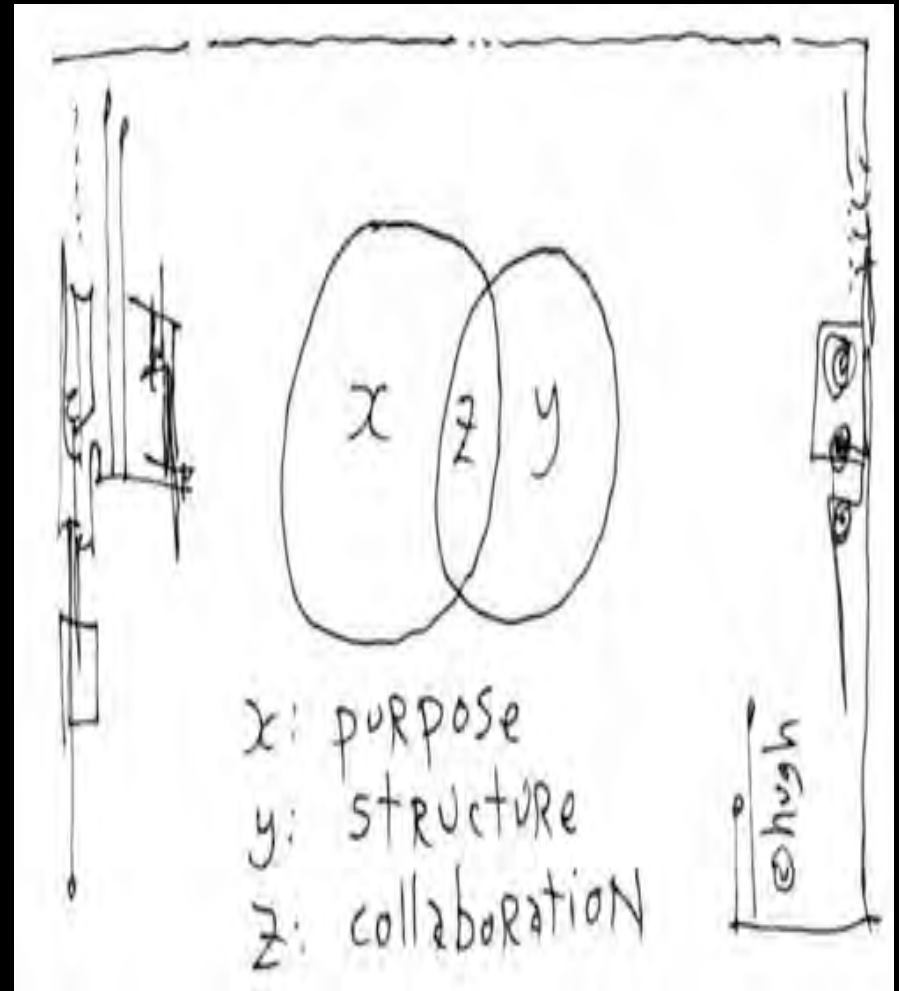
It's a Keep-Moving Navigational  
Tool

That Guides Everybody in the Same  
Direction

Everybody.

Which Means

- Roles are Clear
- Purpose is Shared
- Effort is Aligned
- Partnerships Prevail
- Change is Sustained



## Like a GPS, **Rising Star**:

- Shows where you are relative to your destination
- Provides detailed routes for reaching it
- Adjusts to variations and even accommodates diversions along the way

But the destination remains constant.

# Rising Star Provides a Structure for Improving Performance

(With Plenty of “How” Flexibility)

# The Structure is Built Using **Indicators of Effective Practice**

The Research and Evidence of What  
Works in School Improvement

We've Collected, Analyzed, and  
Organized the Research So that Your  
Time Can Be Spent Applying It

(And **Rising Star** Guides You Through  
Application, Too)



# Before We Go Any Further

## Vocabulary Lesson Number One

(Because without a shared vocabulary, not even technology can help)

in·di·ca·tor [in-di-key-ter]

noun

1. A pointer or a gauge for assessing progress toward the destination

BIG Lasting Improvement in Teaching and Learning

Materials for standards-aligned ...

The principal spends 50% of his/her time ...

Teachers are organized into ...

Teams prepare agendas ...

The student report card shows ...

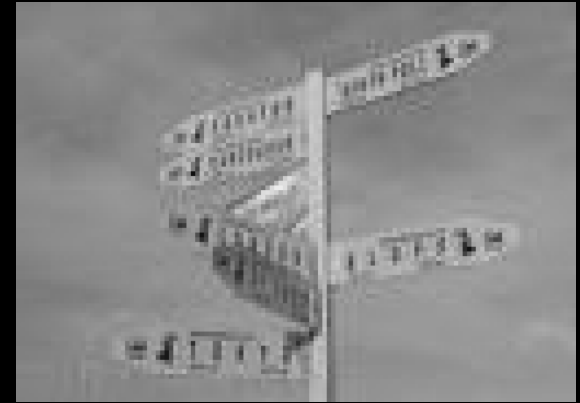
Teachers review the previous lesson ...

But **Rising Star** Doesn't JUST Tell You

Whether or Not You're On the Right  
Track

It Keeps You MOVING On It

(PS....**Rising Star** is Also Designed to  
Build and Sustain Momentum)



# So Where Is It Guiding Us? What is the Destination, Exactly?

The Specifics Will Vary According to the Individual  
Needs and Circumstances of Each State, Each  
District, and Each School

But Ultimately, What We Want

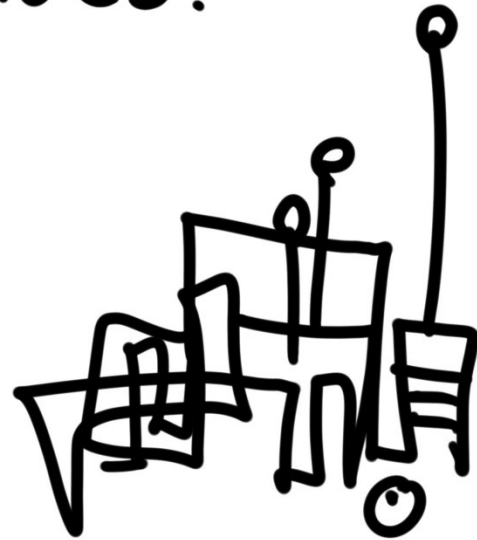
# Is Big Lasting Improvement in Teaching and Learning

But Results Won't Improve Unless  
Performance Improves



it's not what  
the software does.  
it's what the  
user does.

@hugh



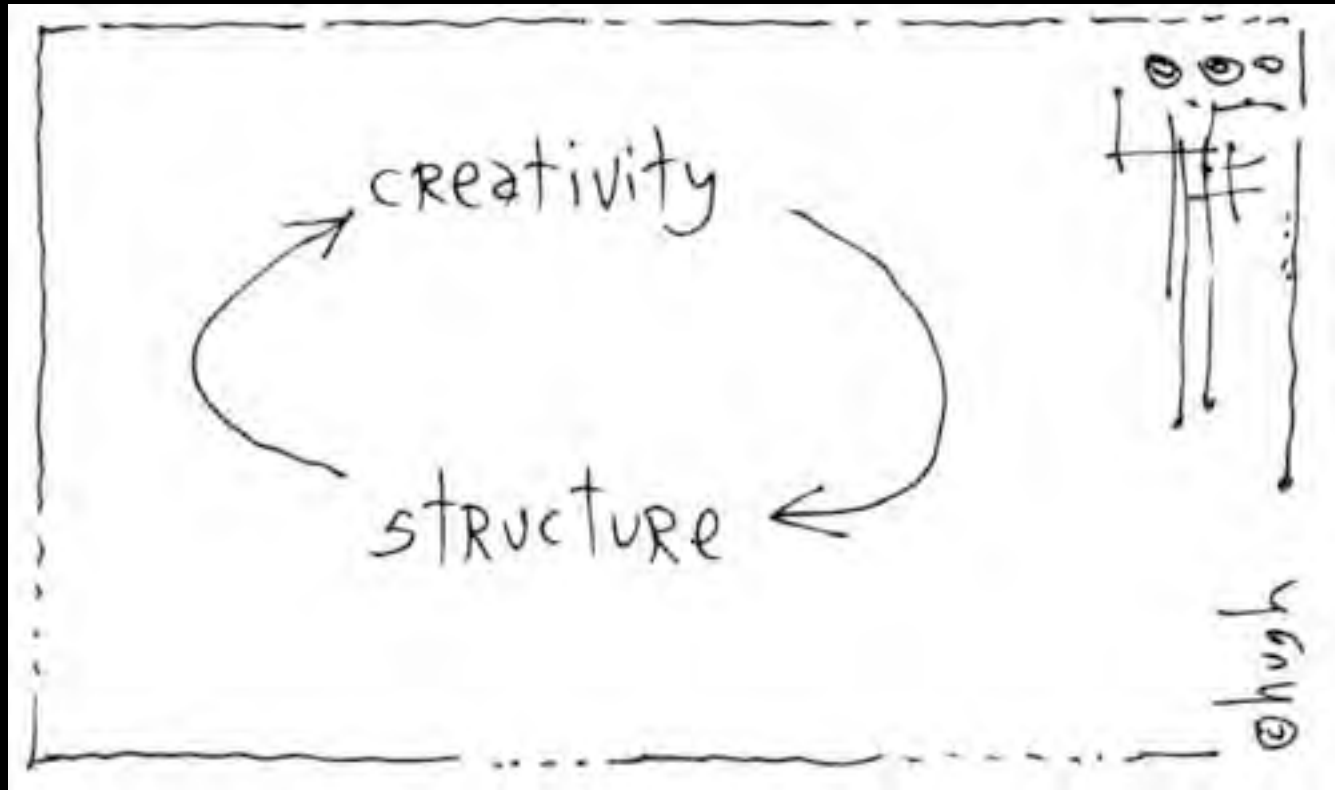
Rising Star Will Help

Don't Follow the Leader. Be the Leader.

Part Two:  
Indicators of Effective Practice, the  
Backbone of **Rising Star**

Improvement-Seeking?  
Spine Required.

# Indicators of Effective Practice



# Indicators of Effective Practice

The Research and Evidence of What  
Works in School Improvement

- Evidence-based strategies for classrooms, schools, and districts
- Culled, analyzed, and organized in *Handbook on Restructuring and Substantial School Improvement*
- *Handbook* named “outstanding publication of the year” by Division H of AERA at 2008 convention in New York City

# Organization of Indicators of Effective Practice

*Improving the Performance Of*

The District.

The School.

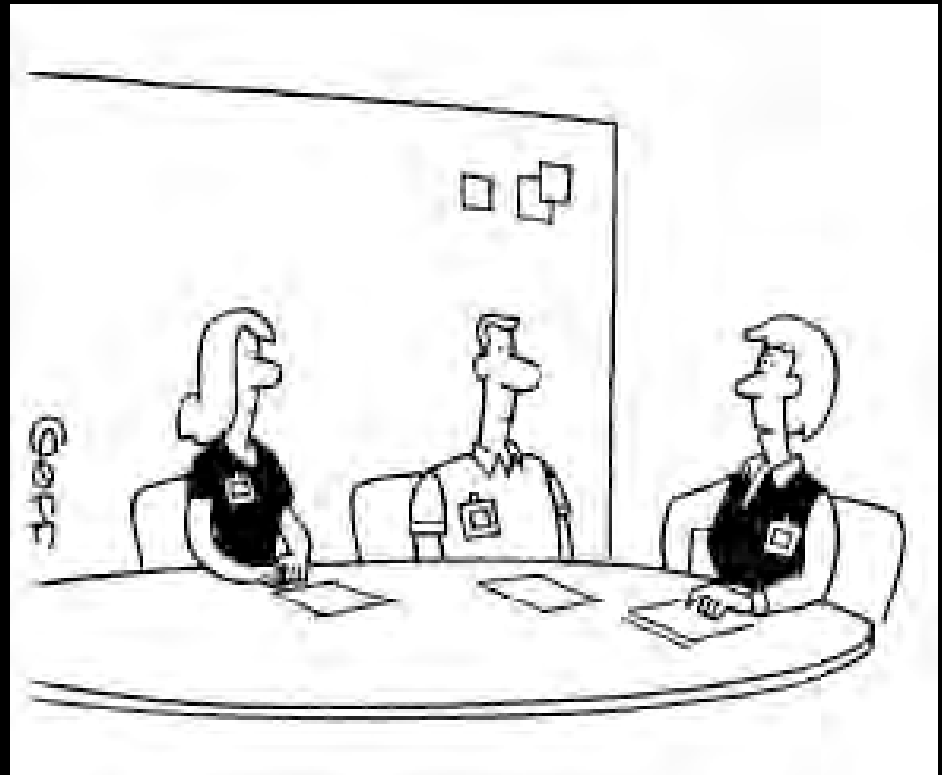
The Classroom.

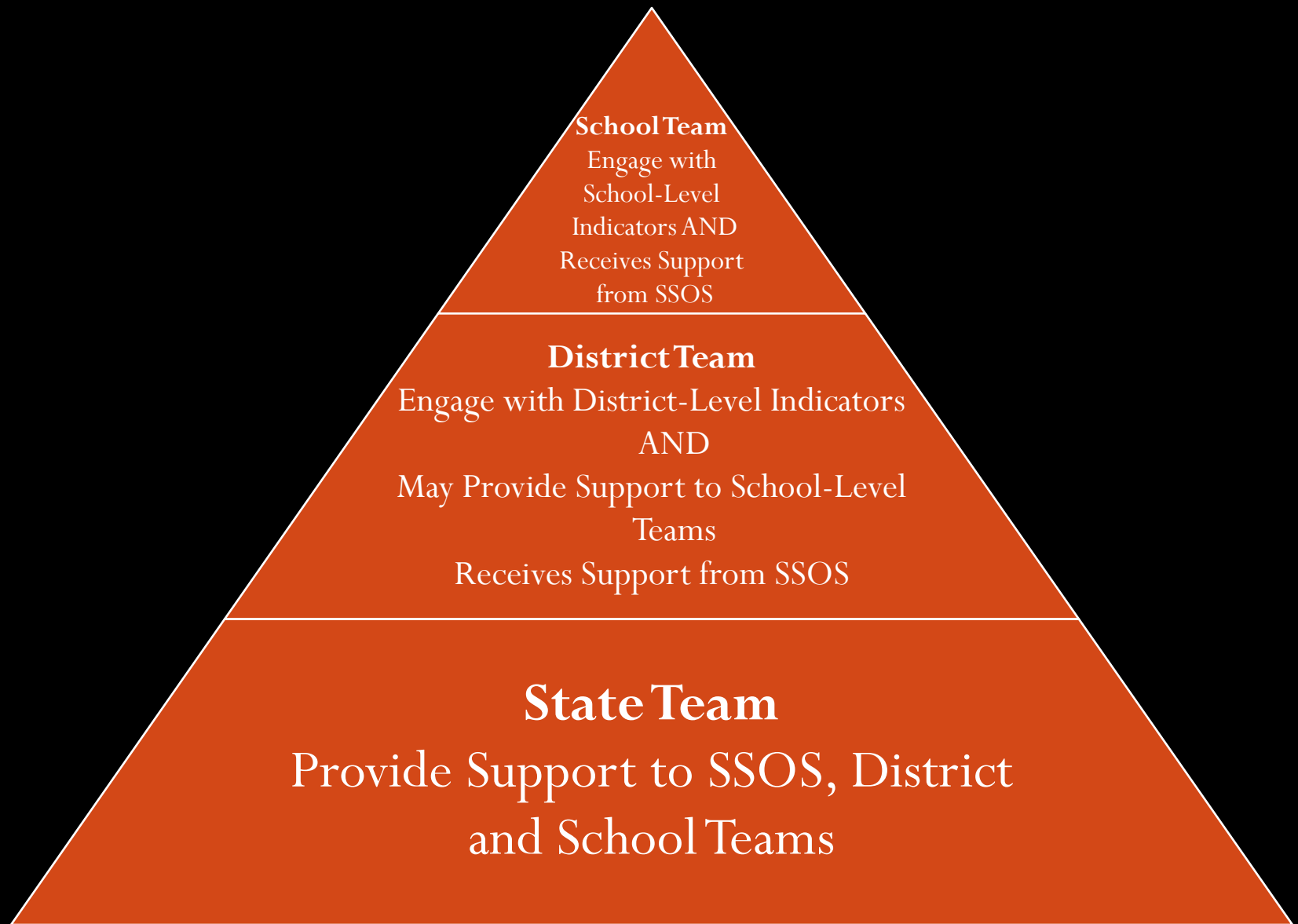
And Ultimately...

The Student.



# In Teams





## *For the District...*

38 Indicators of Effective Practice.

Organized into 3 areas.

- District Context and Support
- District Change Process
- District-School Expectations

# *For the School and Classroom . .*

79 Indicators of Effective Practice, Organized Into 4 Categories that Align with 8 Essential Elements

Category	Essential Element
Continuous Improvement	Comprehensive Planning
Learning Environment	Climate and Culture Community and Family Engagement
Educator Quality	Professional Development Leadership
Teaching and Learning	Curriculum Instruction Assessment

# Rising Star Ensures that the Route Will Be Detailed, Direct, and Focused

Rising Star Allows the District, the School, the Leader to know where they are in relation to a Indicator and provides guidance on where to make the next turn.

We Can't Promise it will be Easy



*(Though with **Rising Star** it will be Easier)*

# Part Three: Determining Your Location

And Making Sure Everyone Works from  
the Same Coordinates



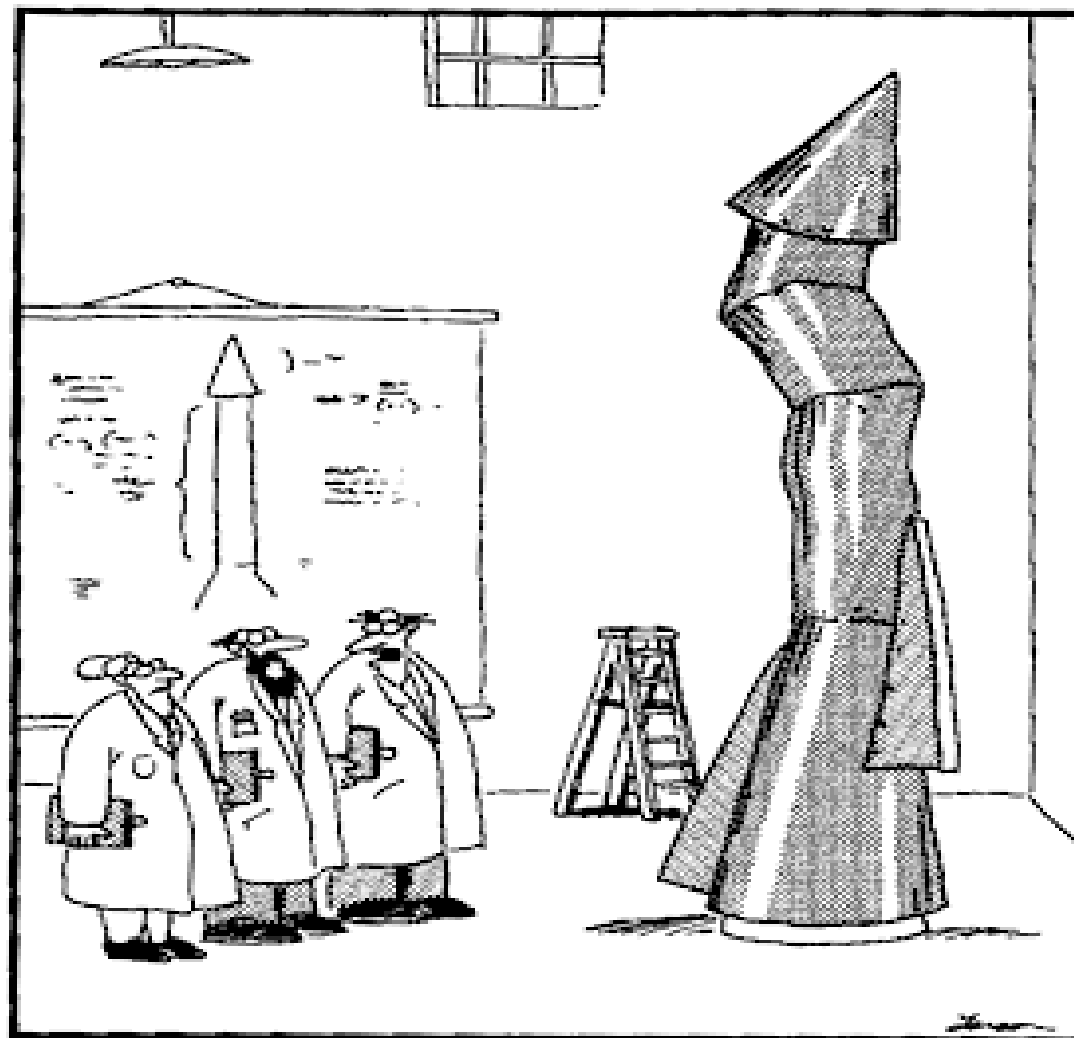
# Rising Star Is Customized According to Need and Circumstance

And, if you haven't already figured it out...Rising Star is Web-Based



Before We Move On

It's Time For Vocabulary Lesson Number  
Two



"It's time we face reality, my friend. ... We're not exactly rocket scientists."

# The Roles We Play

- **State Team:** Members of the state's system of support includes SEA staff, RESPRO coordinators, RESPRO coaches
- **District Lead Coach:** RESPRO members who provide technical assistance and support to districts in Corrective Action
- **District Support Team:** Mostly external to the district assist the district coach with the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of district improvement efforts
- **District Leadership Team:** Mostly internal to the district and support continuous improvement efforts aligned to indicators of effective practice.
- **District Liaison:** District staff who serves on the school team and is its primary link to the district

# The Roles We Play

- **School Lead Coach:** RESPRO members who provide technical assistance and support to schools in Restructuring, Corrective Action, or Choice/SES and use **Rising Star** to support the continuous improvement process
- **School Support Team:** Mostly external to the school and assist the school lead coach with the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of school improvement efforts
- **School Leadership Team:** School staff who will engage with the school-level indicators of effective practice and receive support from RESPROs

# Now We're Ready to Get Started

Logging on

Not everyone logs on

Process manager or Team Leader

Login

Enter your login and password or  
choose to enroll your District in the program.

*Requires Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, or Apple Safari*

***Do not use FireFox.***

Register Your District

Login

[Helpful links and resources](#)

Schools and Districts enter here through a link from the SEA website



# The School or District Dashboard

Where Plans,

Reports, and

Forms Required by the State

Are Completed and Electronically Submitted



## Rising Star

Planning and Reporting

[Test School](#)

### Indicator-Based Planning Tools

[Rising Star - SIP - School Indicators](#)

The Indistar school improvement planning process for the School Improvement Team.

[School Community Indicators](#)

Use the results from the Parent Involvement Analysis to inform your assessing, planning, and monitoring of your School Community indicators.

### Other Planning Tools

[Parent Involvement Analysis](#)

Open link and login with PIA login and password to complete the five step PIA web-based process.

[Illinois Interactive Report Card](#)

Use the Interactive Illinois Report Card web site for test results and other school improvement information for Illinois schools and districts.

### Forms to Complete

### Required Reports

Report Name	Submit By	Submit	Submitted
Rising Star - SIP - School Indicators - Report	December 1	<a href="#">Submit</a>	<a href="#">07/17/10</a>
Parent Involvement Analysis - Report	November 1		
School Community Indicators - Report	December 1	<a href="#">Submit</a>	

### Other Documents/Web Pages

# The State Administrative Page

Where Submitted Plans, Reports, and Forms are Posted for the SEA



# Illinois State Board of Education

Jesse Ruiz, Board Chair  
Dr. Christopher Koch, State Superintendent

## Illinois State Board of Education

### School Activity for the State

[Show District and School Progress](#)

Program	# Schools Submitted Report	# Schools in Program
Illinois SIP	2	13
School Community	1	13
Response to Intervention	1	13
Supplemental Plan	1	13
Budget Report	1	13
Assurances	0	13
Parent Involvement Analysis	0	13

### Select Schools by a Specific District, or choose All Districts checkbox

District:

☒ All Districts

[Display Schools](#)

### School Summary List by District

[Activity by District](#)

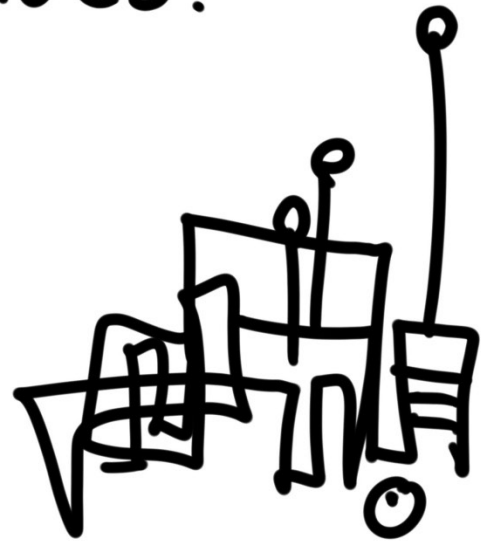
### All Districts (13 active schools )

District Name	School Name	I SIP	School Comm	RTI	SuppPlan	Budget	Assurance	PIA
Dennis' Test District	DW Continuous School							
Dennis' Test District	DW Rapid School							
North West School District	Barrett Elementary/Middle School	<a href="#">12/17/2009</a>						
North West School District	Franklin Elementary School							
North West School District	Gate City High School	<a href="#">12/16/2009</a>	<a href="#">12/31/2009</a>	<a href="#">12/31/2009</a>	<a href="#">12/31/2009</a>	<a href="#">02/01/2010</a>		
North West School District	Grover Cleveland Elementary School							
North West School District	Johnson Middle School							
North West School District	Kennedy Elementary School							
North West School District	Michelle Test School							
North West School District	North West South East School							
North West School District	RTI School							
North West School District	Sharp Elementary							
North West School District	Washington Middle School							

But Remember, the Real Work  
Occurs in Teams

it's not what  
the software does.  
it's what the  
user does.

@hugh



# Expectations for the Team Process

# High Quality Performance Requires

- Regular and well-attended team meetings
- Focused and difficult discussions
- Culture of Candor - honest and reflective self-examination
- Openness for and commitment to creativity
- Sincere and collaborative effort
- Use of **Rising Star** protocols and consistent documentation

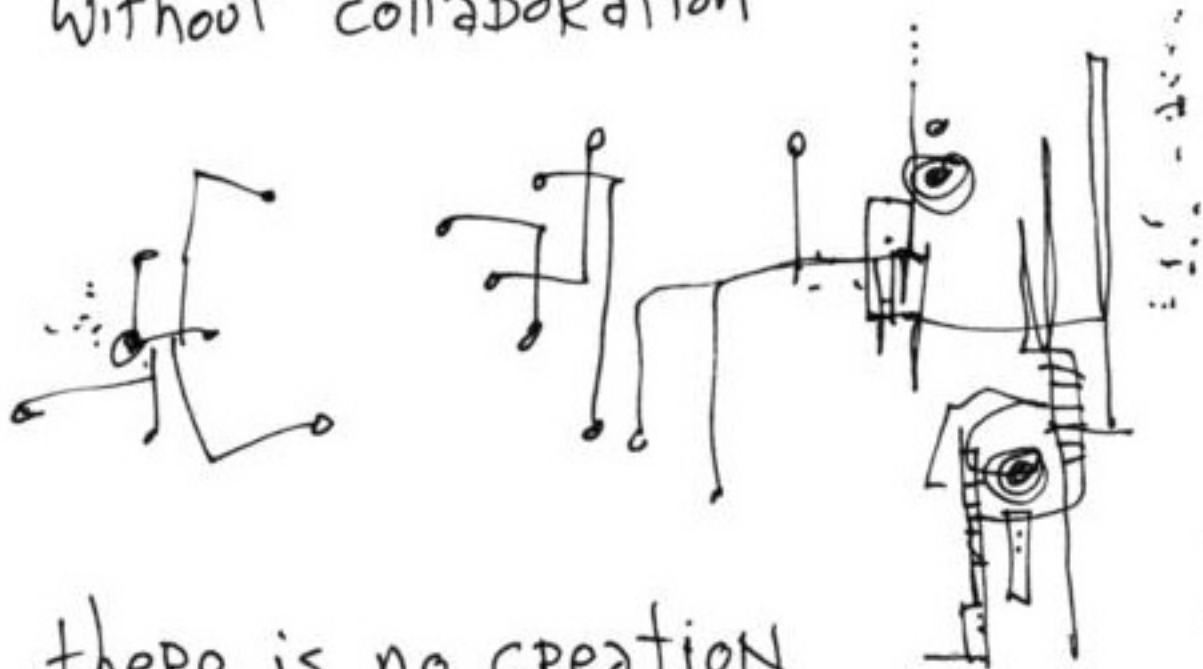


**Rising Star** Makes it Easy and  
Efficient to Know What to Improve

But the Actual Improvement Depends  
on the Effort of the People Behind It

A Strong Team Process and the Steadfast  
Implementation of its Plans

without collaboration



there is no creation

@hugh

# Highlights of Team To-Do's

- Attendance at initial training on Indicators of Effective Practice and use of **Rising Star**
- Steady work with the Indicators of Effective Practice

# Highlights of Team To-Do's, cont.

- Attendance at regularly scheduled team meetings
  - Assess progress toward indicators of effective practice,
  - Plan for adjustments, and
- Select a team member to regularly update activity and progress within **Rising Star** (Process Manager)

# Now We're Ready to Roll Up Our Sleeves

And start the improvement conversation



# Part Four: Assessing Proximity to Indicators of Effective Practice

Self-Assessment, the First Step toward Improvement



# The Indicators of Effective Practice that Were Selected

Are Programmed into **Rising Star**

Ready for the Team to **Assess, Plan, and Monitor**

# Rising Star Illinois SIP

Main Menu

Test School School Improvement Team

Illinois Sample District, IL

Resources and Reports

Plan Your Meeting

Coaching Comments

Where are we now?



Update to Steps 1-3

Set Up School	Started	Last Update	
<a href="#">Step 1 - Register School</a>	06/28/10	07/27/10	
<a href="#">Step 2 - Provide School Information</a>	06/30/10	07/27/10	
<a href="#">- Provide School Assessment Scores</a>	07/15/10	07/26/10	
<a href="#">Step 3 - Form School Team</a>	07/12/10	07/26/10	6 (count)

Assess - Create - Monitor	Started	Last Update	Progress
<a href="#">Step 4 - Assess School Indicators</a>	06/29/10	07/26/10	37 of 119
<a href="#">Step 5 - Create School Plan</a>	07/12/10	07/20/10	6 of 23
<a href="#">Step 6 - Monitor School Plan</a>	10/01/11	10/01/11	1 of 6

Coaches & Leaders	Name	Position	Phone	Email
Principal	Mr. Ima Principal		x	test@sbcglobal.net
Process Manager	Mr. Ima Principal			test@sbcglobal.net

For technical questions concerning this tool contact us at [Indistar@adi.org](mailto:Indistar@adi.org)

# So That When You Begin the Assessment

The Screen Looks Something Like This

# Rising Star

Assess School Indicators

School Process Main

Test School

?

Tab 1 – Select Indicators by Section – select your indicator to assess by section or choose to display all Indicators

Tab 2 – List of Indicators to Assess – choose indicator to assess

Tab 3 – List of Indicators Assessed – choose indicator to edit assessment information

Tab 4 – Assess Indicator – enter this tab only by selecting an indicator in tab 2 or 3

1. Select Indicators 2. List of Indicators to Assess 3. List of Indicators Assessed 4. Assess Indicator

Filter(s) Choose 1 or more filters to narrow your search.

☐ Key Indicators only

To view Indicators, choose a section below or [display all Indicators as list](#)

Category	Section	Subsection I	Subsection II	Completed
Continuous Improvement	<a href="#">Comprehensive Planning</a>			12 of 13
Educator Quality	<a href="#">Leadership</a>			6 of 13
	<a href="#">Professional Development</a>			3 of 10
Teaching and Learning	<a href="#">Curriculum</a>			3 of 3
	<a href="#">Assessment</a>			2 of 16
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Preparation		1 of 7
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Teacher Directed	Introduction	0 of 4
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Teacher Directed	Presentation	0 of 5
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Teacher Directed	Summary/Confirmation	0 of 4
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Differentiation		3 of 3
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Interaction		1 of 7
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Student Directed (Group or Individual)		0 of 7
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Computer-Based		0 of 6
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Parent Communication/Homework		3 of 6
	<a href="#">Instruction</a>	Classroom Management		0 of 12
Learning Environment	<a href="#">Culture</a>			0 of 13

Select the Category . . .  
and then and Indicator

### Test School



Tab 1 – Select Indicators by Section – select your indicator to assess by section or choose to display all Indicators

Tab 2 – List of Indicators to Assess – choose indicator to assess

Tab 3 – List of Indicators Assessed – choose indicator to edit assessment information

Tab 4 – Assess Indicator – enter this tab only by selecting an indicator in tab 2 or 3

Category: **Continuous Improvement**

Section: **Comprehensive Planning**

1. Select Indicators

2. List of Indicators to Assess

3. List of Indicators Assessed

4. Assess Indicator

[Wise Ways ®](#)

**ID08 The Leadership Team serves as a conduit of communication to the faculty and staff. (43)**

1. Choose your level of Development or Implementation for this Indicator.

☐ No development or Implementation ☒ Limited Development or Implementation ☐ Full Implementation \* required field

2. Priority Score: \* required field

☐ 3 - highest priority

☐ 2 - medium priority

☐ 1 - lowest priority

3. Opportunity Score: \* required field

☐ 3 - relatively easy to address

☐ 2 - accomplished within current policy and budget conditions

☐ 1 - requires changes in current policy and budget conditions

4. Please describe the current level of development or implementation. \* required field

\* Please complete required fields

[Save this indicator](#)

If the Team Identifies the Indicator  
as a Priority

Then **Rising Star** turns it into an **action  
item**, an objective to be **defined  
and accomplished**

## Rising Star

### Create School Plan

[School Process Main](#)[Objective List](#)[Test School](#)[Define Objective and Assign Tasks](#)Objective: **ID01** [Wise Ways](#)

?

***A team structure will be officially incorporated into the school improvement plan and school governance policy. (36)***

1. Assign a team member to manage and monitor your work toward this objective. ***Ima Principal***
2. Describe how it will look when this objective is being fully met in your School. ***Recommend to Board of Education at September Board meeting***
3. Establish a date by which your description above will be a reality. ***10/15/2010***

Edit steps 1 -

4. 3.

[Edit](#)

Create a series of tasks for this

5. objective.

[Add a task](#)

Create one task in the series for this

5 a. objective.

Assign a person to be responsible for this

5 b. task.

- Other please list --&gt;

Other:

5 c. Establish a date this task will be completed.

mm/dd/yyyy

Record notes from your discussion that will be helpful to the person responsible for this

5 d. task.

[Save](#)[Cancel](#)



Did you notice the Wise Ways link?

Wise Ways Is a Built-In Reference Tool  
that Provides a Synthesis of the Research  
that Supports the Indicator AND Provides  
Real, How-to, High-leverage Strategies  
for Attaining It

# How About the Coaching Comments Button?

Coaching Comments Makes it Easy and Automatic  
for Teams to Communicate with their Coaches and  
Instructors

# Rising Star Illinois SIP

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Illinois Sample District, IL

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Where are we now?

?

Updates for Steps 1-3

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Coaches & Leaders	Name	Position	Phone	Email
Principal	Mr. Ima Principal		x	test@sbcglobal.net
Process Manager	Mr. Ima Principal			test@sbcglobal.net

For technical questions concerning this tool contact us at [Indistar@adi.org](mailto:Indistar@adi.org)

And Since We're Always Learning  
and Improving...

**Rising Star** Makes it Easy to Update the Tasks

## Rising Star

Monitor School Plan

Test School

School Process Main

Plan List



Indicator: [Wise Ways](#)

**Objective: A team structure will be officially incorporated into the school improvement plan and school governance policy. (36)**

*Describe how it will look when this objective is being fully met in your School:*

**Recommend to Board of Education at September Board meeting**

Assigned to: **Ima Principal**      Objective Target Date: **10/15/2010**

### Update or Complete Task Status

1. Update task comments as necessary.
2. Enter "Completed date" (mm/dd/yyyy) when task has been completed.
3. Click "Save/Update" to save changes.

Note: Click "Delete this task" to remove the task from the objective. This should only be done if the task is no longer necessary in working toward meeting the objective.

Task: 1 The principal will develop a draft of a recommended policy adoption for the Board and distribute the draft for Leadership Team members to review.

Comments: Include an explanation for the Superintendent to accompany the draft that goes to the Board.

Completed 10/01/2010

Save / Update

Cancel

Delete this task

### Select Task to Enter Monitoring Information

Assigned to   Target Date   Completed

The principal will develop a draft of a recommended policy adoption for the Board and distribute the draft for Leadership Team members to review.

Ima Principal 10/01/2010

And Monitor Progress

## Rising Star

### Monitor School Plan

[School Process Main](#)
[Print](#)

Test School

Monitor School Plan

?

The objectives you see listed below are those you've chosen to include in your plan.  
 Select an objective to update the progress of tasks, or to remove a task from an objective.  
 Once all the tasks for an objective are complete, tell about the work that you've done.

Objectives shown in Blue have tasks that are not complete.

Objectives shown in Green have all the tasks completed and the Objective has been met.

Objectives shown in Red need a task added in Step 5 or you were undecided if the task was complete.

#### School Plan (8 objectives)

ID	Select Objective to update task progress.	Assigned to	Target Date	Tasks	% Tasks Completed	Objective Met
	<u>A team structure will be officially incorporated into the school improvement plan and school governance policy. (36)</u>	Ima Principal	10/15/2010	0	0 %	
	<u>The school's Leadership Team will regularly look at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data and use that data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs. (45)</u>	Teacher One	10/10/2011	1	100 %	add task in step 5
ID01	<u>A team structure will be officially incorporated into the school improvement plan and school governance policy. (36)</u>	Ima Principal	10/15/2010	0	0 %	
ID07	<u>A Leadership Team consisting of the principal, teachers who lead the Instructional Teams, and other key professional staff will meet regularly (twice a month or more for an hour each meeting). (42)</u>	Dear Parent	07/31/2010	0	0 %	
ID10	<u>The school's Leadership Team will regularly look at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data and use that data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs. (45)</u>	Teacher One	10/10/2011	1	100 %	add task in step 5
IE06	<u>The principal will keep a focus on instructional improvement and student learning outcomes. (57)</u>	B. Member	10/19/2010	0	0 %	
IIIB01	<u>All teachers will maintain a file of communication with parents. (150)</u>	Ima Principal	12/30/2010	0	0 %	
IVA16	<u>The school will celebrate its accomplishments. (179)</u>	Teacher One	05/30/2011	0	0 %	

And Generate Lots of Reports

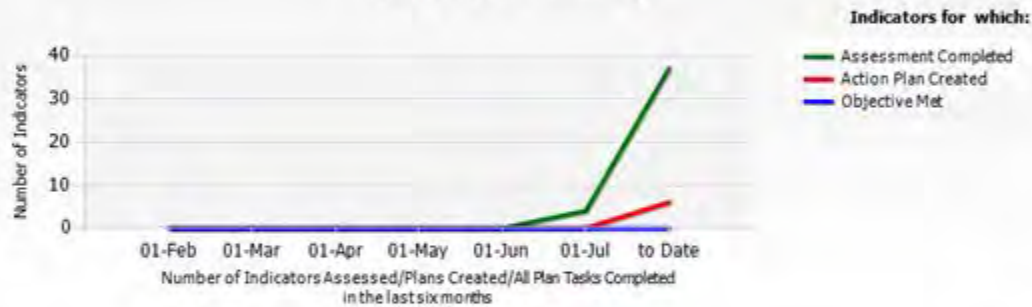


## Test School

School Improvement Team

Where Are We Now?

### Indicator Summary



### Progress Percentages by Section



## Rising Star Test School

☐ Key Indicators only

☐ Show only the indicators included in the plan.

Comprehensive Plan Report

Close

Refresh

1 of 11 Select a format Export

### Test School

Comprehensive Plan Report

Key Indicators are shown in RED.

School Improvement Team

#### School Leadership and Decision Making

Establishing a team structure with specific duties and time for instructional planning

Indicator - All teams have written statements of purpose and by-laws for their operation. (37)

Level of Development: Full Implementation

Evidence: Per Minutes

2. Create plan for data wall.

Assigned to: Teacher One

Target Completion Date: 09/10/2011

Comments: Jane will draw out what the data wall will look like. She will facilitate the progress of building the data wall for display.

Task Completed: 10/01/2011

3. The principal will develop a draft of a recommended policy adoption for the Board and distribute the draft for Leadership Team members to review.

Assigned to: Ima Principal

Target Completion Date: 10/01/2010

Comments: Include an explanation for the Superintendent to accompany the draft that goes to the Board.

#### Continuous Improvement

Comprehensive Planning

# A Quick Review of Some Features

*Coaching Comments*: Built-in communication tool for coaches and team members (sorry no voice command yet)

*Wise Ways*: On-demand synthesis of research and strategies that will support indicator attainment (think of it as a traveler's reference)

*Agendas and Minutes*: The Team Leader (a superintendent, principal, or designated “process manager”) logs into **Rising Star** and prepares a customized agenda for the team meetings and records the minutes

*Worksheets*: Customized according to the agenda, the worksheets support adherence to the agenda and ensure documentation of agreements and next steps

# Plus Features to Customize for You

*Your Own Name:* When districts and schools log in, they see the name YOUR STATE has given the system—tailored for your state.

*Your Own Indicators:* Your choice. Select an indicator template from those in the **Rising Star** library or provide your own.

*Rubrics:* If your state uses rubrics to assess indicators, **Rising Star** adapts to your design and employs your rubrics.

*Teams, Reports, Forms:* Add other teams (RTI, Parent, Special Ed for example) to the system, and add other reports and forms to the dashboard for electronic submission

# Rising Star

*A Keep-Moving* Navigational Tool

[www.centerii.org](http://www.centerii.org)

[www.indistar.org](http://www.indistar.org)