



## Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC): Action Research

- Members:** A cooperative of 17 school districts in Appalachian East Kentucky.
- Goal:** To build capacity of educators to systematically identify, implement, and study the impact of innovative strategies on specific problems of practice.
- Focus:** Building capacity to use action research to systematically address problems of practice.

**Action Research:** A cyclical process in which educators address a problem of practice through systematic research, planning, action, monitoring, and reflection.

### PHASE 1 DEVELOP FRAMEWORK

**1**

**NEED:** *What framework will guide educators in conducting action research?*

**ACTION:** Provide partners with research and tools; Support development of action research cycle.

**RESULTS:** Consistent approach to action research.



### PHASE 2 EMPOWER LOCAL EXPERTS

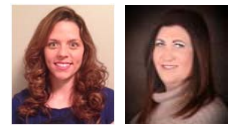
**2**

**NEED:** *Who can provide professional development and support locally?*

**ACTION:** Observe teacher presentations at KVEC's Action Research Summit; Identify and involve skilled local educators in providing professional development.

**RESULTS:** Leverage of local expertise; Greater ownership.

KVEC Teacher Trainers: Michelle Scott & Rachel Holbrook



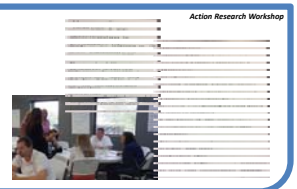
### PHASE 3 BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

**3**

**NEED:** *What knowledge and skills will prepare educators to conduct action research?*

**ACTION:** Build capacity of KVEC staff and educators through Action Research workshops.

**RESULTS:** Basic understanding of action research cycle.



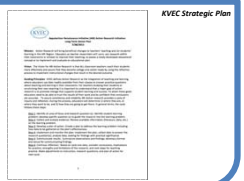
### PHASE 4 DEVELOP STRATEGIC PLAN

**4**

**NEED:** *What are long-term and short-term goals for building local capacity to conduct action research?*

**ACTION:** Provide template and feedback for three-year strategic plan for capacity building.

**RESULTS:** Road map for building capacity over time.



### PHASE 5 PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY

**5**

**NEED:** *How will capacity be developed and maintained over the long term?*

**ACTION:** Provide train-the-trainer professional development; Involve teacher preparation institutions.

**RESULTS:** Local structure for capacity building.

Action Research Trainer: Noel Cram



## MNPS Data Use Research Alliance: Collaborative Inquiry (CI)

- Members:** Teachers, school administrators, instructional support staff, and central office staff of Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), as well as researchers and technical assistance providers.
- Goal:** To identify and implement best practices in data use that improve instruction and student learning outcomes.
- Focus:** Building capacity to use a collaborative inquiry approach to data use in middle schools.

**Collaborative Inquiry (CI):** A professional learning process that engages educator teams in using a systematic, research-oriented approach to examining their teaching practice.

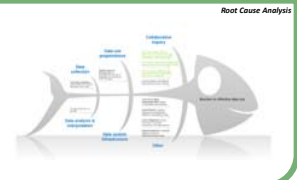
### PHASE 1 IDENTIFY BARRIERS TO DATA USE

**1**

**NEED:** *What are the barriers to effective data use?*

**ACTION:** Engage partners in a root cause analysis to identify barriers to data use.

**RESULTS:** Shared understanding of barriers to data use.



### PHASE 2 DEVELOP CI OUTCOMES

**2**

**NEED:** *If we remove the barriers to effective data use, what CI outcomes would we see?*

**ACTION:** Build capacity to develop logic models; and define short, intermediate, and long-term CI intended outcomes.

**RESULTS:** Well-defined CI outcomes; Shared understanding.



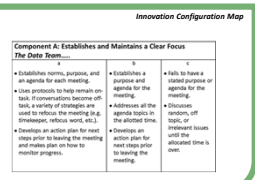
### PHASE 3 IDENTIFY CI BEST PRACTICES

**3**

**NEED:** *What practices would we need to implement to achieve the CI intended outcomes?*

**ACTION:** Build capacity to develop an innovation configuration (IC) map and identify ideal practices of collaborative inquiry.

**RESULTS:** A common language and useful tool for implementation and reflection on practice.



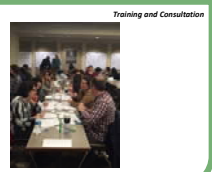
### PHASE 4 APPLY CI BEST PRACTICES

**4**

**NEED:** *What do schools need to implement collaborative inquiry using the IC Map?*

**ACTION:** Provide training and implementation support to five Collaborative Inquiry Community of Practice schools.

**RESULTS:** Sustainability; Community of practice.



### PHASE 5 EVALUATE FOR LEARNING

**5**

**NEED:** *How can schools improve implementation and measure whether they have achieved intended outcomes?*

**ACTION:** Build capacity to develop and implement an evaluation plan for collaborative inquiry.

**RESULTS:** Identification of lessons learned, best practices, and necessary resources for improvement and scaling up.

Teacher Data Use Survey

Item	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
ESS	U	U	U	U	U
Acad	U	U	U	U	U
Instructional	U	U	U	U	U
MOE/State Standards	U	U	U	U	U
CP (Classroom Practices)	U	U	U	U	U
Self-efficacy	U	U	U	U	U
Time	U	U	U	U	U
Other	U	U	U	U	U