UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGE

*Potential Discussion Questions*

Unpacking a team’s mapping of a problem can take many forms depending on how far along the team has been working together to address this core challenges. Below are potential ways a team can conduct their analysis. These three examples are not meant to be exhaustive and teams are encouraged to choose or develop an approach that works best for them. In delving into your analysis, we ask all teams to keep in mind, and address, the four key categories outlined below.

Team works its way through each “why”:

* Evidence-based: Does evidence exist that contradicts any of the “why’s”? Are the other hypotheses supported by evidence?
* Feasible: Which of the “why’s” would the team have the capacity to address?
* Aspirational: Does the team aspire to address any of the “why’s”? Would it lead to a significant accomplishment of which the team would be proud?
* Beneficial: Would addressing any particular “why” be beneficial, and who would the primary beneficiaries be? Is it consistent with the district’s needs and values?

Team finds a point among the hypothesized “why’s” and identifies a project-based solution:

* Evidence-based: Is this project or intervention supported by evidence, data, and/or research?
* Feasible: Does the team have the capacity to design and/or implement this project? If not, could the team build the capacity to do so?
* Aspirational: Is this project interesting and would its success be a significant accomplishment for the team?
* Beneficial: Have we identified the long-term and short-term benefits of this project (for students, teachers, families, etc.) and do we understand the need and value for it by those individuals?

Team examines where their project fits within the overall landscape presented by the document:

* Evidence-based: Does the team have the data, evidence, and/or research to support our continued efforts?
* Feasible: As our project has evolved, is this team still capable of achieving the goals of this project? If not, who do we need to include and how will we go about doing this?
* Aspirational: Will completing this project represent a significant accomplishment that the team is eager to achieve and that they are proud to be working toward?
* Beneficial: Will this project still achieve its desired outcome? Do other actors in the system still consider this a 1) high-priority need, and 2) desire and value our solution to this need?