

## Cycle of Inquiry

Local educational agencies' (LEA) continuous inquiry and improvement processes will play a critical role in focusing educators' efforts on what matters most for learning in order to achieve long-term improvement outcomes. LEAs will work with schools to develop data-informed plans. The school-level improvement plan will track leading indicators for school-level actions to monitor, assess, reflect, and adjust planned actions in a continuous inquiry cycle for improvement. Likewise, the LEA plan of support will examine schools' progress through the leading indicators in order to monitor, assess, reflect, and adjust supports to schools.

Initially, LEAs and their schools will analyze prior school-level improvement plans and prior needs assessments, where applicable, to incorporate lessons learned from these analyses into the continuous inquiry and improvement process. LEAs will intentionally integrate new efforts with existing improvement processes. The shift to LEAs as the primary support system for local improvements allows communities to address the needs within schools as part of a comprehensive LEA system. The local inquiry and improvement cycle is enhanced when teachers and leaders focus on key factors that are closely connected to student learning. For example, these key factors could include instructional and learning strategies, personal competency development, classroom and school routines that support and enhance deeper learning, and administrative structures impacting students' time, place, path, and pace of learning. By focusing on factors close to the work of improving student learning, and supporting schools in need of support in addressing these factors, LEAs will be laying the groundwork to achieve better outcomes. LEAs have the advantage of having local control over school configurations which impact students' transitions, resource allocations, as well as the administrative structure to address overarching factors that may be outside schools' authority to address on their own.

The findings of the LEAs' needs assessments, responsive local school-level improvement plans, and reports of progress on outcomes relevant to the plan will inform the Arkansas Department of Education's continuous inquiry to provide feedback for improving support at all levels, in particular, for LEAs with schools in need of support.

Cycle of Inquiry Model

