



Increasing 9th Grade Success and High School Graduation in Chicago

Eliza Moeller, Director of Research and Continuous Improvement

Quinton Keith, Director of Data and Continuous Improvement

UChicago Network for College Success

Using research, data, and professional experience to organize high schools for improvement and improve student outcomes

Our Community:

- 15-20 Chicago public high schools in an NSI
- Chicago Public Schools
- Regional and national clients

Key Focus: 9th Grade Success

Understanding the Problem

Graduation rate for students entering Chicago high schools in 1999:

47%

The conversation about dropping out in 2005...

- Student background and prior performance
- At any time, for any reason

Source: UChicago Consortium on School Research: Graduation and Dropout Trends in Chicago (2005)

The Indicator: Ninth Grade On-Track

What is it?

A 9th grader is on-track to graduate if they have:

- At least 5 credits by the end of the year
- No more than one semester failure in a core class

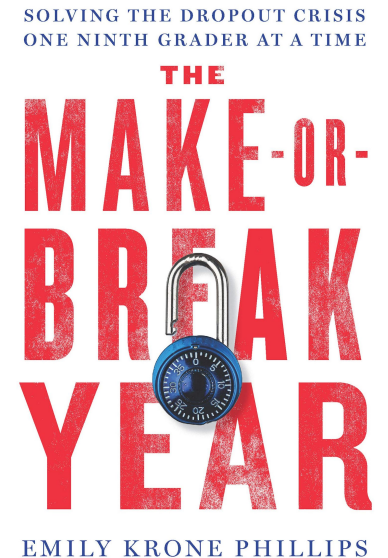
Why is it important?

- 4 times more likely to graduate
- Lots of variation across schools

Source: UChicago Consortium on School Research The On-Track Indicator as a Predictor of High School Graduation (2005)

The Early Adopter: Hancock High School

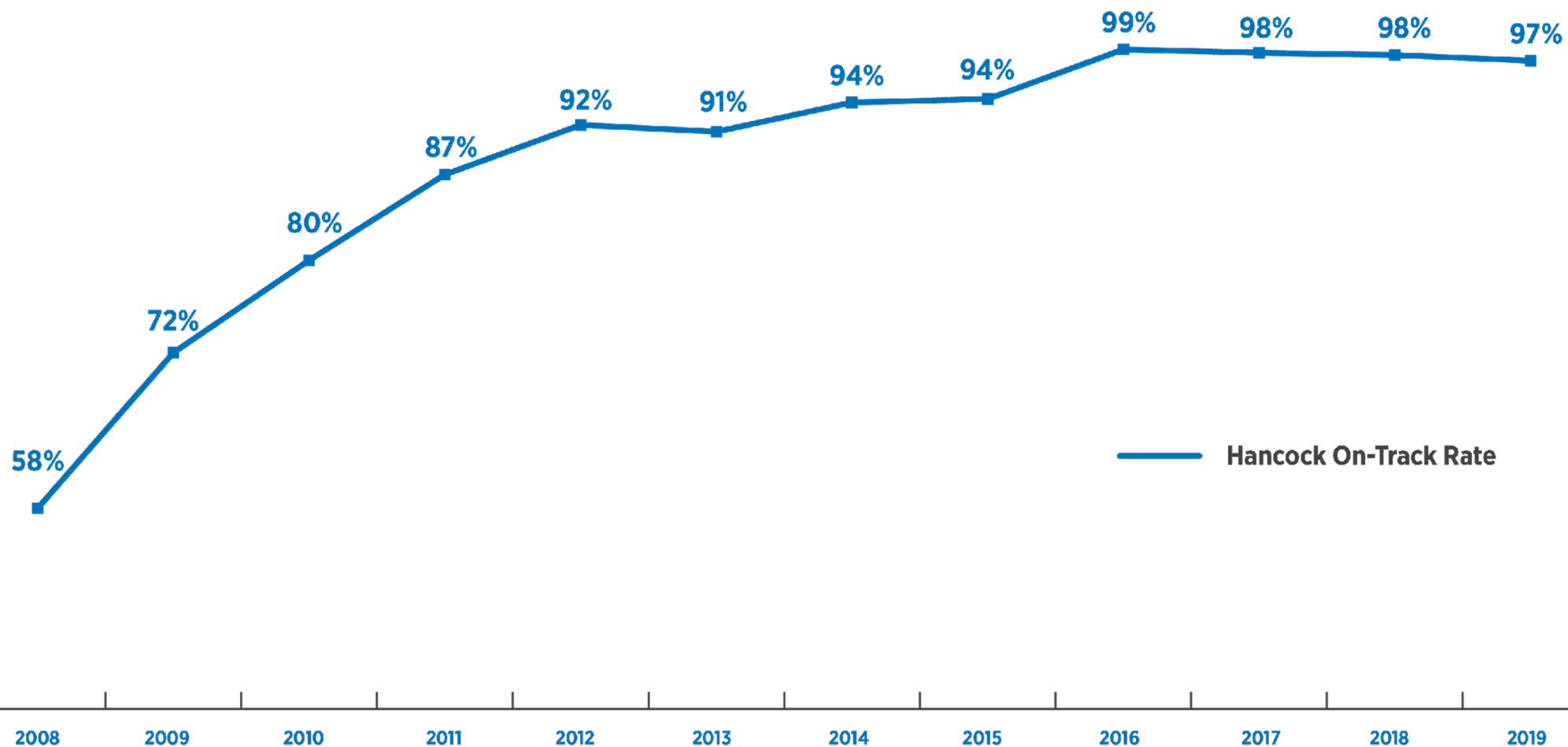
- Neighborhood high school on the Southwest Side of Chicago
- Began work with a ~60% on-track rate
 - Research and data
 - Home visits
 - Grading policy adjustments
 - Highlighting bright spots
 - On-track coordinator
- Lasting structure: 9th Grade Success Team



The Strategy: 9th Grade Success Teams

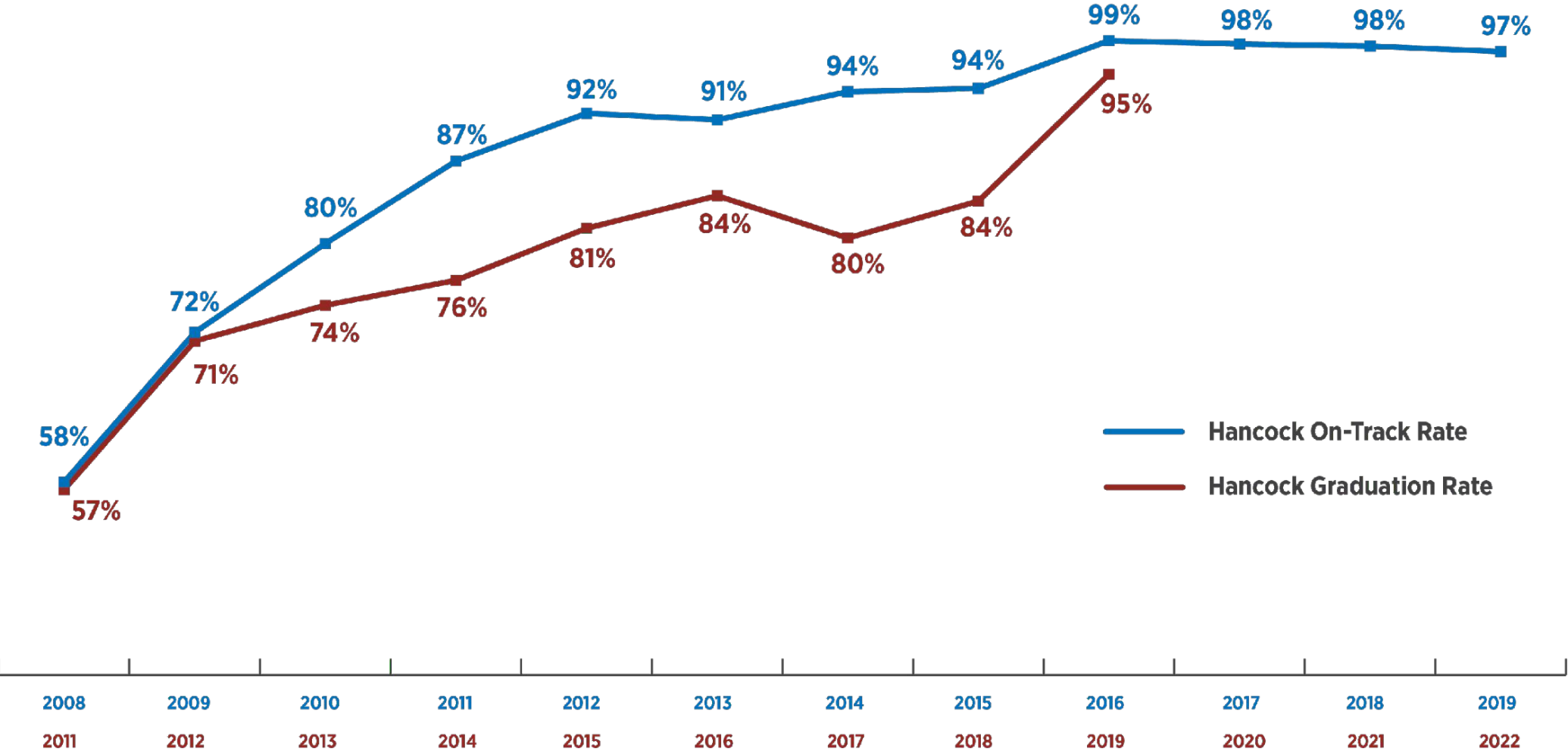
- Dedicated 9th grade teachers
- Collaboration across departments
- Focused on the whole 9th grade cohort
- Collective efficacy

On-Track Rates at Hancock High School



Data Source: Chicago Public Schools: <https://www.cps.edu/about/district-data/>

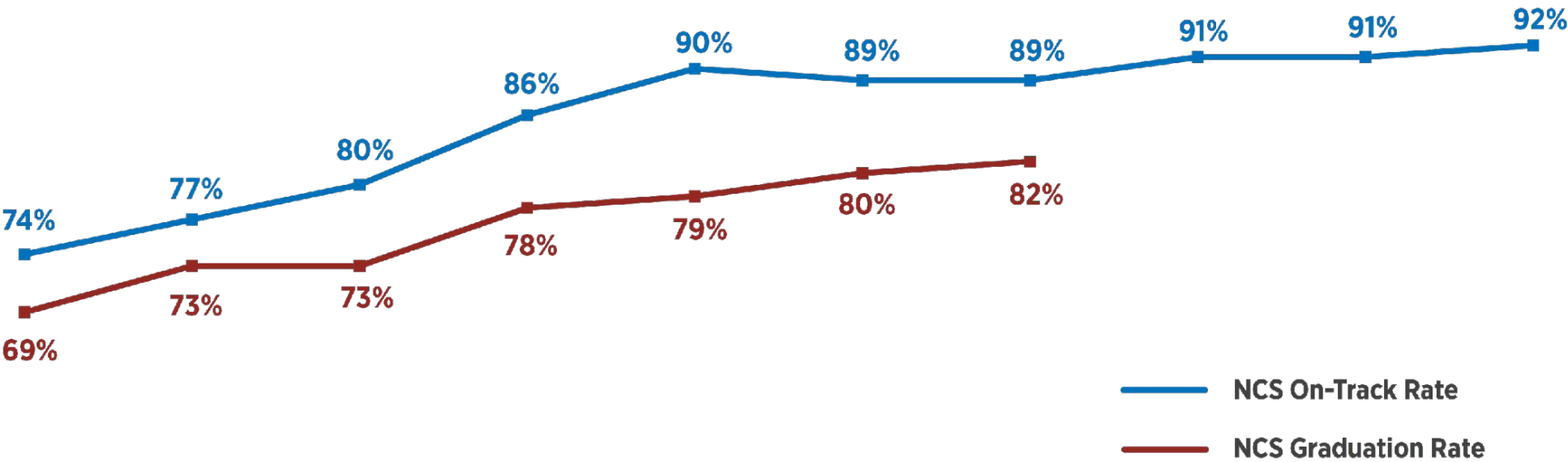
On-Track and Graduation Rates at Hancock High School



Data Source: Chicago Public Schools: <https://www.cps.edu/about/district-data/>



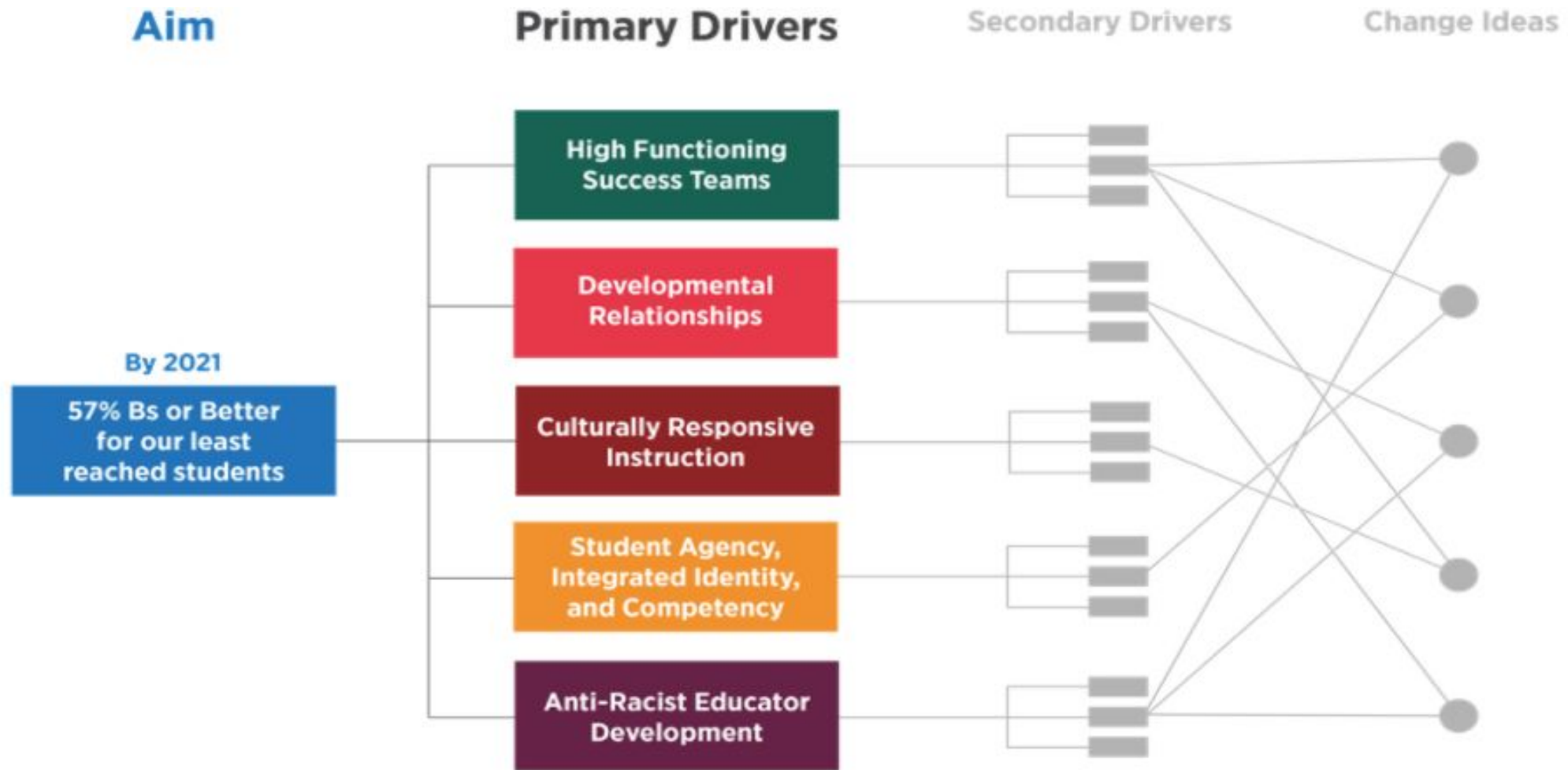
On-Track and Graduation Rates at NCS Schools



| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Freshman Year | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Graduation Year | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |

Data Source: Chicago Public Schools: <https://www.cps.edu/about/district-data/>

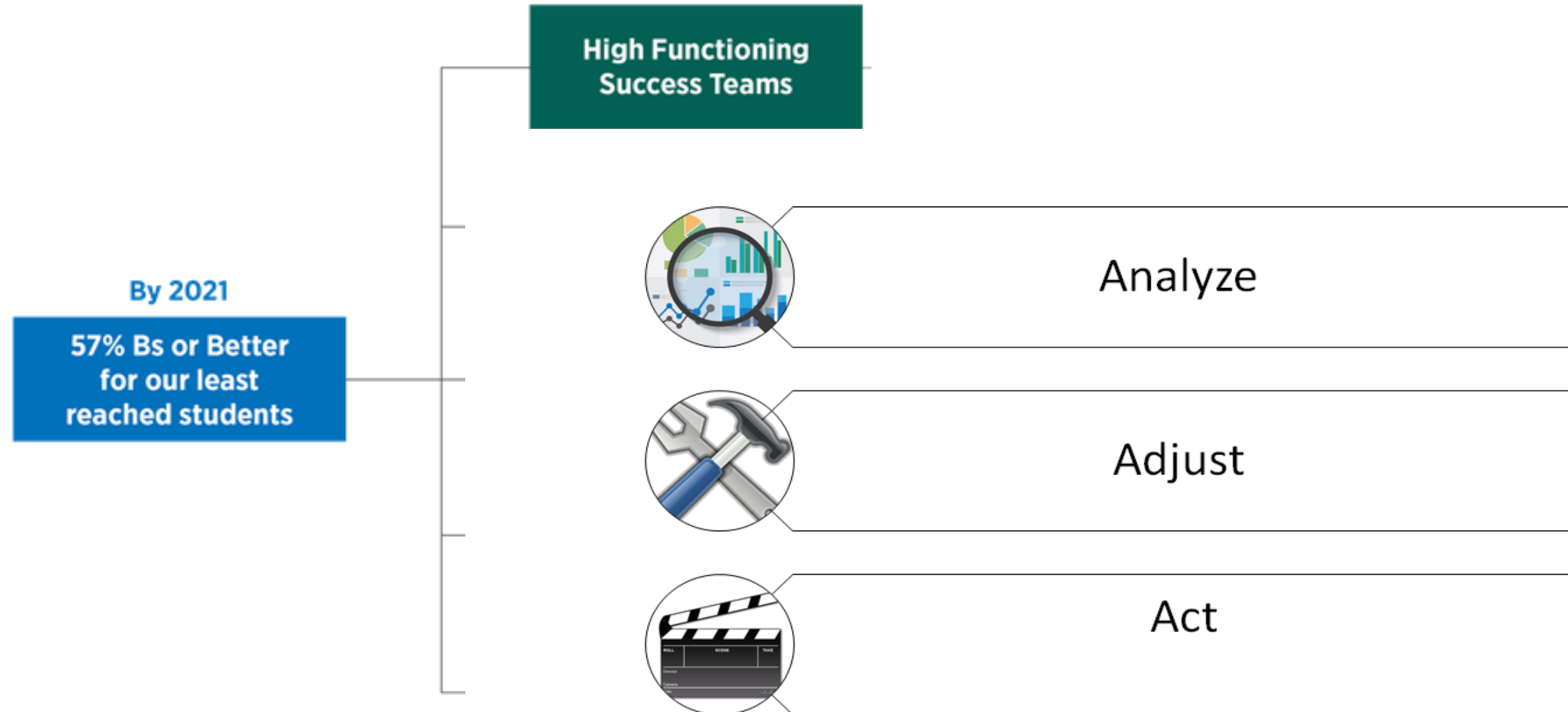
The Results: A Strong Theory of Change



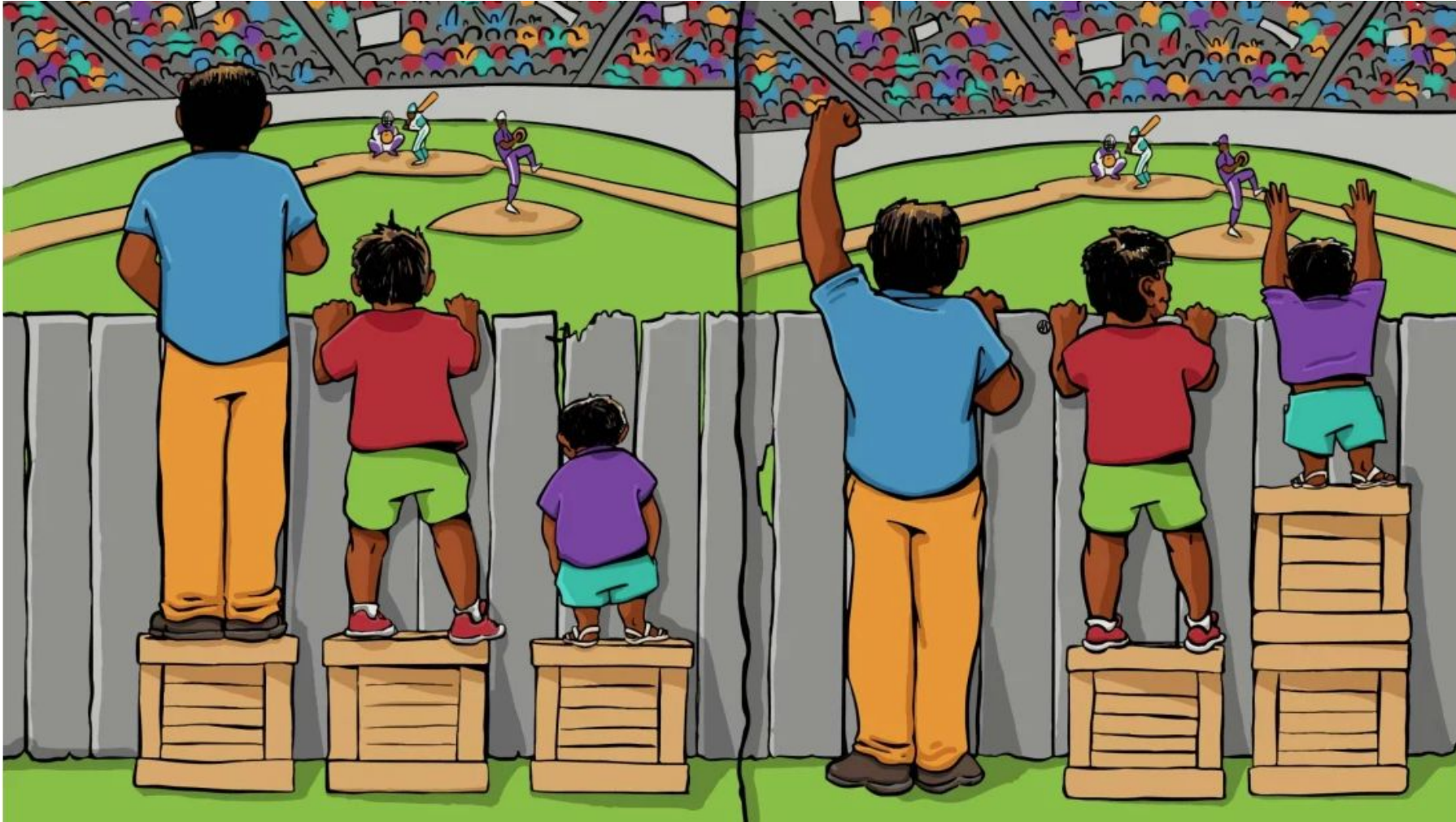
Going Deep: 9th Grade Success Teams

Aim

Primary Drivers



Going Deep: 9th Grade Success Teams



Lessons Learned

