



The College Readiness Indicator Systems (CRIS) framework articulates the interrelated components that make up an effective college readiness indicator system.

The CRIS initiative, sponsored by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aimed to develop and study the implementation of a system of signals and supports designed to increase the number of students who graduate from high school ready to succeed in college. Three research organizations - the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University, the John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities at Stanford University, and the University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research - partnered with four urban school districts and one school support network to conduct the initiative.

[Please see the six-part CRIS Resource Series for a more detailed account of our research.](#)

CONTINUE >

SELECT INDICATORS

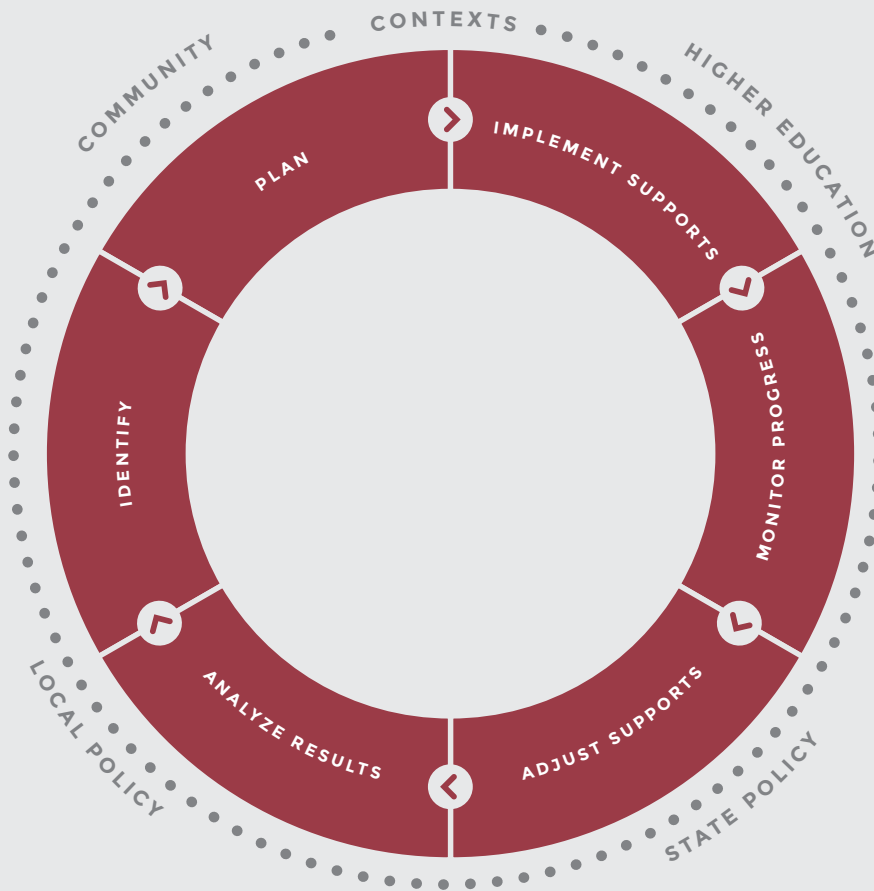
DIMENSIONS



LEVELS



ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE READINESS



## OVERVIEW OF CRIS FRAMEWORK

The CRIS framework features:

- Indicators to target three distinct yet interdependent college readiness dimensions: **Academic Preparedness**, **College Knowledge**, and **Academic Tenacity**;
- A tri-level approach premised on the idea that an effective set of indicators generates data that reflect activities, processes, and outcomes at the **individual (student)**, **setting (school)**, and **system (district and partners)** levels; and
- A **Cycle of Inquiry** that connects indicators for each dimension and at each level with the appropriate supports.

[See the CRIS Framework Narrative for more information.](#)

GET STARTED >

SELECT INDICATORS

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY

DIMENSIONS

LEVELS

ACADEMIC  
PREPAREDNESS

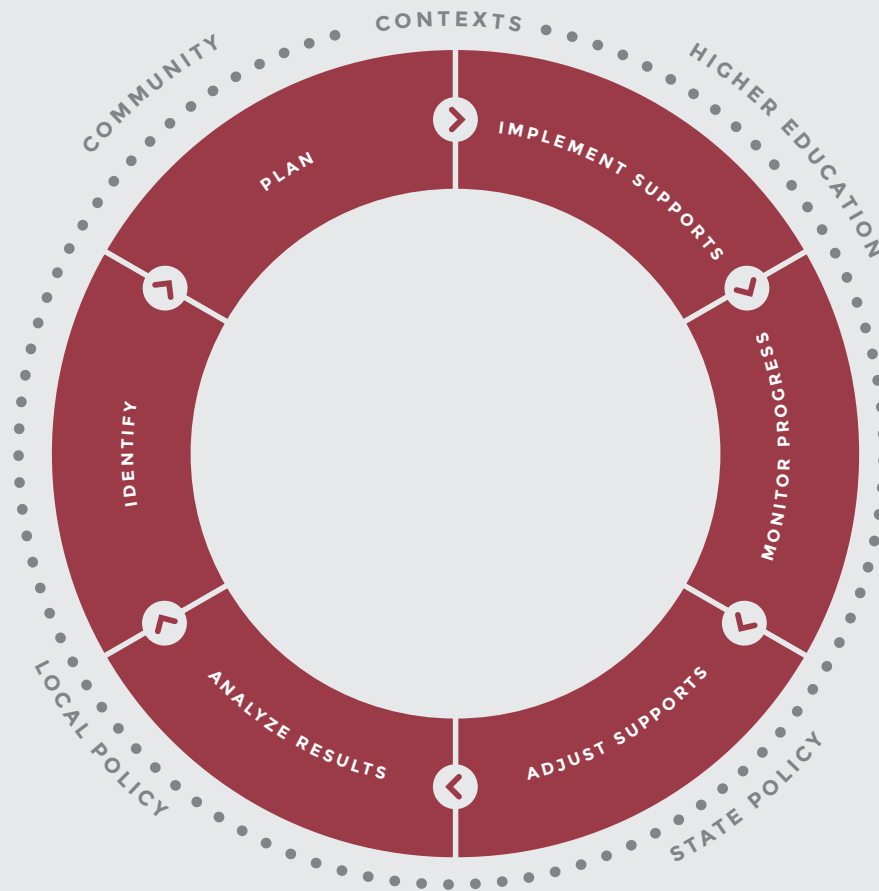
ACADEMIC  
TENACITY

COLLEGE  
KNOWLEDGE

INDIVIDUAL  
(STUDENT)

SETTING  
(SCHOOL)

SYSTEM  
(DISTRICT & PARTNERS)



COLLEGE  
READINESS

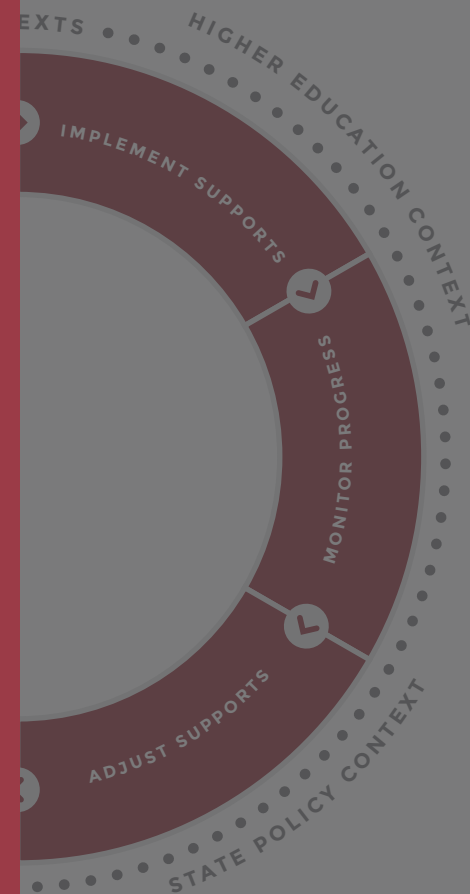
## TAKE STOCK & PRIORITIZE

Prior to the selection of indicators, the district identifies its college readiness goals and how they might differ for different groups of students (e.g., by achievement level). It takes stock of its available resources, challenges, and needs and prioritizes actions to take. A parallel process occurs at the school level, where each school takes stock of the demographics and achievement of their current and prior population of students and related needs and prioritizes actions. With this information, the district or school can proceed with the selection of indicators in each college readiness dimension and at each level. [The CRIS District Self-Assessment Tool provides guidance to districts engaging in this process.](#)

NEXT STEP >

SELECT INDICATORS

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



< BACK



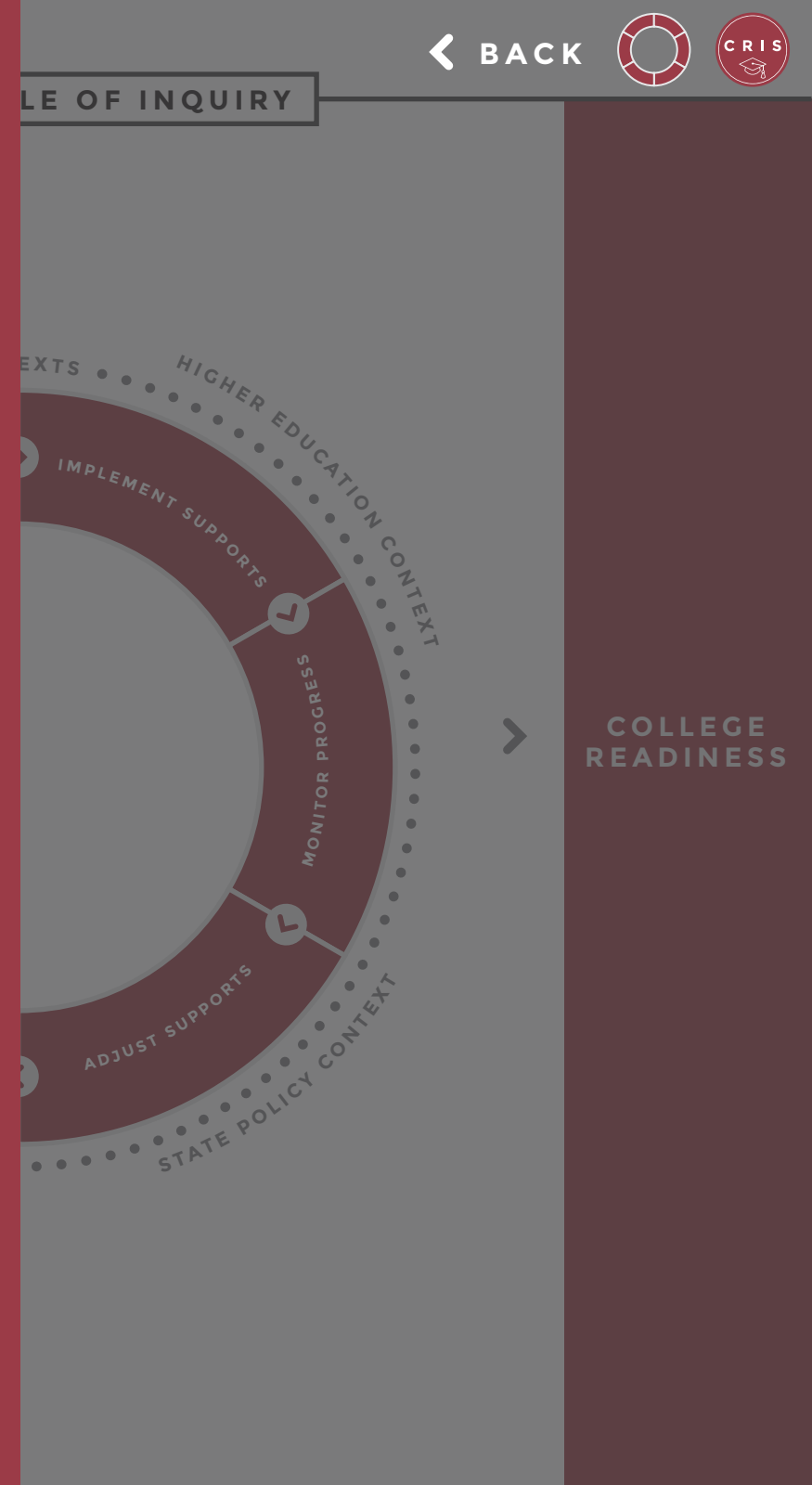
## SELECT INDICATORS

Schools and districts next select indicators in each college readiness dimension and at each level. Three CRIS products can help with this step; see the Menu of College Readiness Indicators, and Supports, Selecting Effective Indicators, and A Technical Guide to College Readiness Indicators for more information.

NEXT STEP &gt;

## SELECT INDICATORS

## ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



SELECT INDICATORS

DIMENSIONS

LEVELS



ACADEMIC  
PREPAREDNESS



INDIVIDUAL  
(STUDENT)



ACADEMIC  
TENACITY



SETTING  
(SCHOOL)

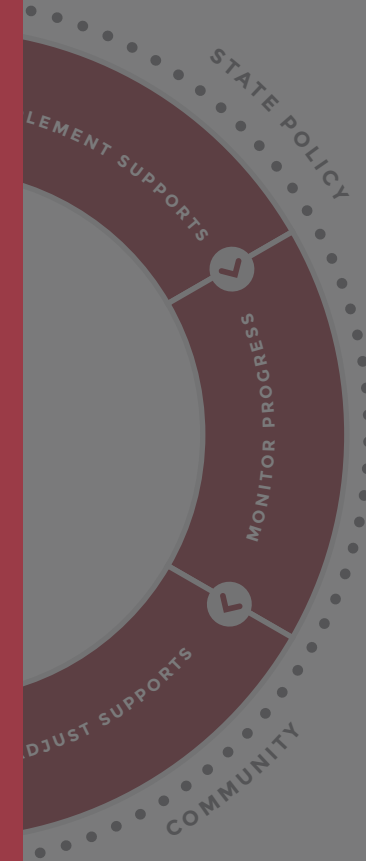


COLLEGE  
KNOWLEDGE



SYSTEM  
(DISTRICT & PARTNERS)

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS

BACK



SELECT INDICATORS

DIMENSIONS

LEVELS

ACADEMIC PREPAREDNESS



The key academic content knowledge and cognitive strategies needed to succeed in doing college-level work.

INDIVIDUAL (STUDENT)



At the individual level, indicators measure students' personal progress toward college readiness.

[VIEW EXAMPLES](#) ▼



ACADEMIC  
TENACITY



SETTING  
(SCHOOL)

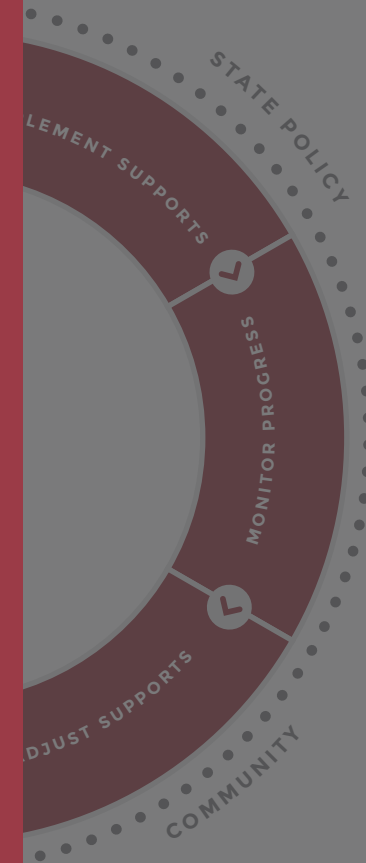


COLLEGE  
KNOWLEDGE



SYSTEM  
(DISTRICT & PARTNERS)

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS



SELECT INDICATORS

DIMENSIONS

LEVELS

ACADEMIC PREPAREDNESS



The key academic content knowledge and cognitive strategies needed to succeed in doing college-level work.

INDIVIDUAL (STUDENT)



preparedness include:

- GPA & credits/courses
- Benchmark exams

[See the Menu of College Readiness Indicators for more information](#)



ACADEMIC  
TENACITY



SETTING  
(SCHOOL)

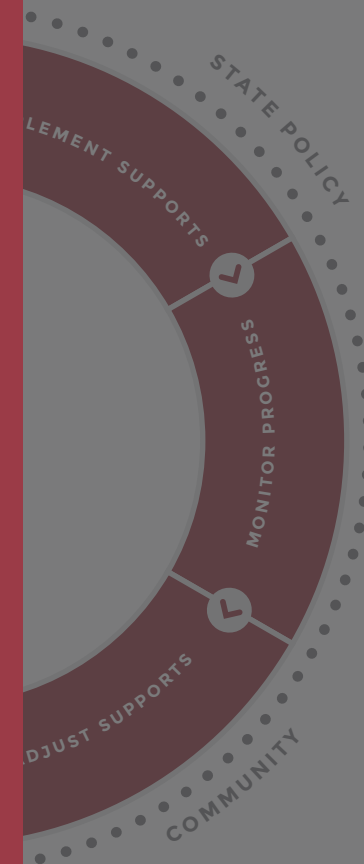


COLLEGE  
KNOWLEDGE



SYSTEM  
(DISTRICT & PARTNERS)

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS

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INDIVIDUAL  
(STUDENT)



ACADEMIC  
TENACITY

SETTING (SCHOOL)



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[VIEW EXAMPLES](#) ▼

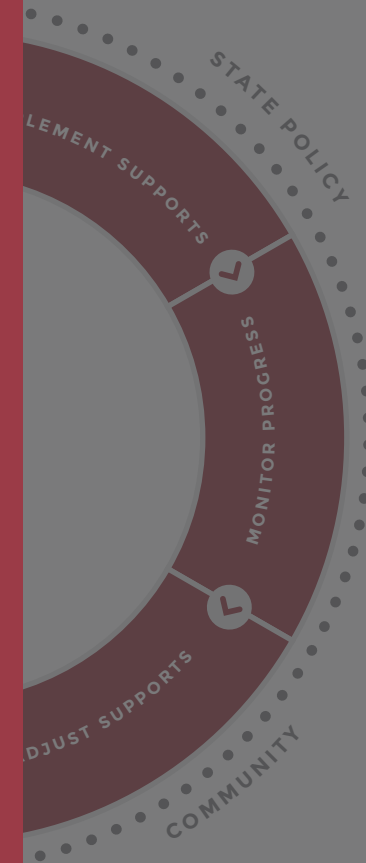


COLLEGE  
KNOWLEDGE



SYSTEM  
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ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
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INDIVIDUAL  
(STUDENT)



ACADEMIC  
TENACITY



SETTING  
(SCHOOL)



COLLEGE  
KNOWLEDGE

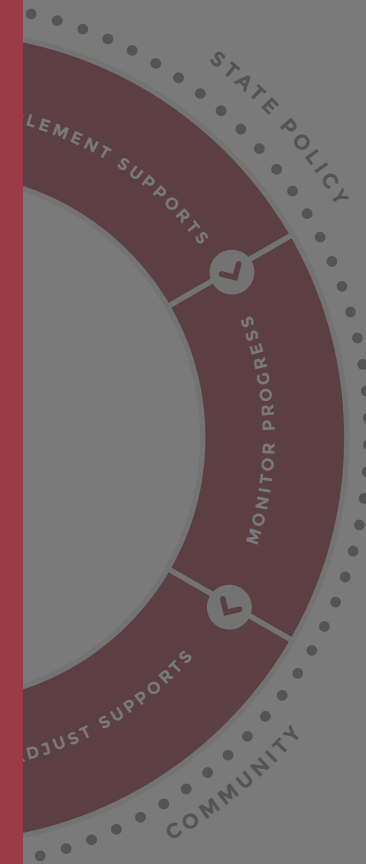
SYSTEM (DISTRICT & PARTNERS)



At the system level, the focus of the indicators is on district policy, funding infrastructure, and partnerships that affect the availability of college readiness supports.

[VIEW EXAMPLES](#) ▼

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS

◀ BACK



SELECT INDICATORS

DIMENSIONS

LEVELS



ACADEMIC  
PREPAREDNESS



INDIVIDUAL (STUDENT)

At the individual level,  
indicators measure  
students' personal progress  
toward college readiness.

[VIEW EXAMPLES](#) ▼



ACADEMIC TENACITY

The underlying beliefs  
and attitudes that drive  
student achievement.



SETTING  
(SCHOOL)

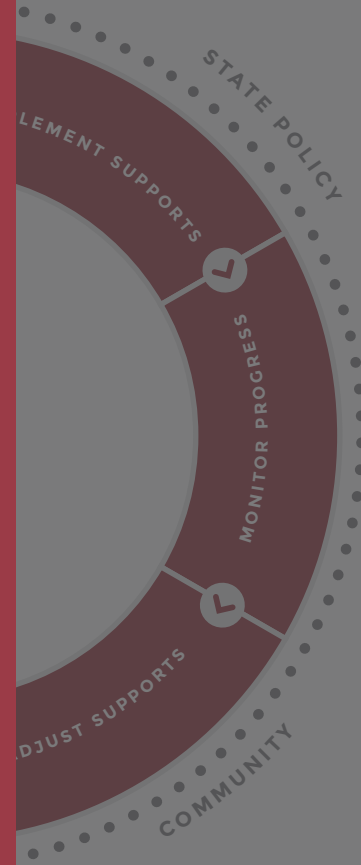


SYSTEM  
(DISTRICT & PARTNERS)



COLLEGE  
KNOWLEDGE

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS

SELECT INDICATORS

DIMENSIONS

LEVELS



ACADEMIC  
PREPAREDNESS



INDIVIDUAL  
(STUDENT)

ACADEMIC TENACITY



The underlying beliefs  
and attitudes that drive  
student achievement.

SETTING (SCHOOL)



At the setting level, indicators  
track the resources and  
opportunities for students  
provided by their school.

[VIEW EXAMPLES](#) ▼

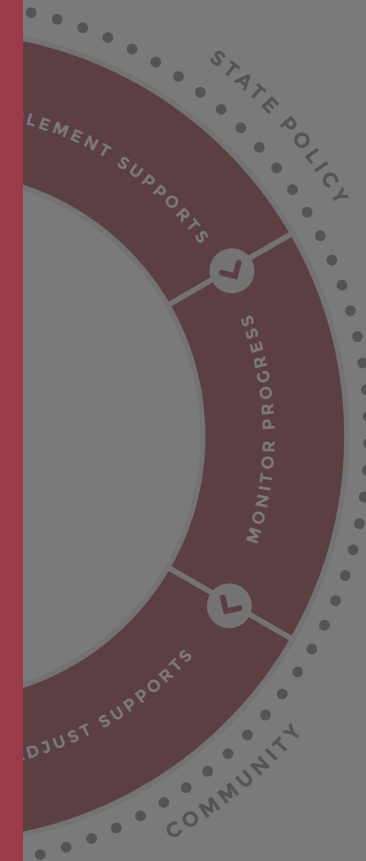


COLLEGE  
KNOWLEDGE



SYSTEM  
(DISTRICT & PARTNERS)

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
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SETTING  
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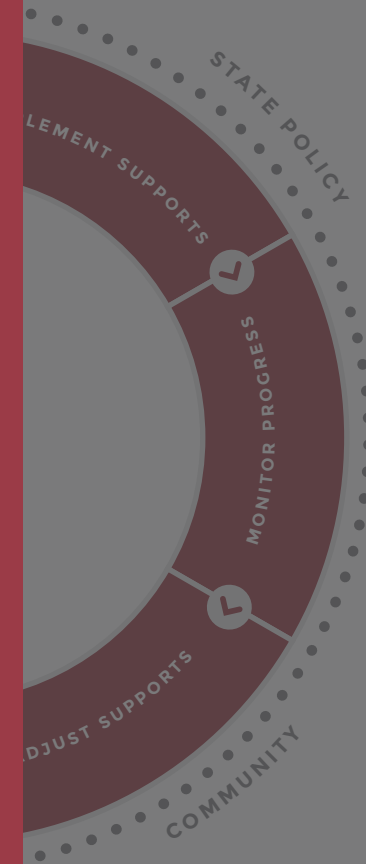
SYSTEM (DISTRICT & PARTNERS)



At the system level, the focus  
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[VIEW EXAMPLES](#) ▼

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS

[BACK](#)



SELECT INDICATORS

DIMENSIONS

LEVELS



ACADEMIC  
PREPAREDNESS



INDIVIDUAL (STUDENT)

At the individual level,  
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toward college readiness.

[VIEW EXAMPLES](#) ▼



ACADEMIC  
TENACITY



SETTING  
(SCHOOL)



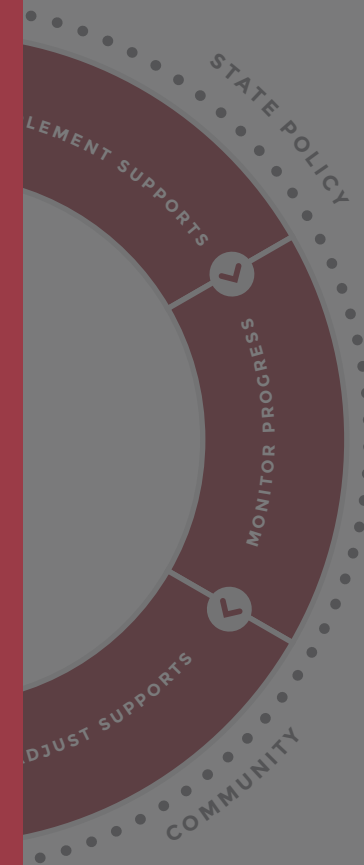
SYSTEM  
(DISTRICT & PARTNERS)

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE



The knowledge base and  
contextual skills that enable  
students to successfully  
access and navigate college.

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS

SELECT INDICATORS

DIMENSIONS

LEVELS



ACADEMIC  
PREPAREDNESS



INDIVIDUAL  
(STUDENT)



ACADEMIC  
TENACITY

SETTING (SCHOOL)



At the setting level, indicators track the resources and opportunities for students provided by their school.

[VIEW EXAMPLES](#) ▼

COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

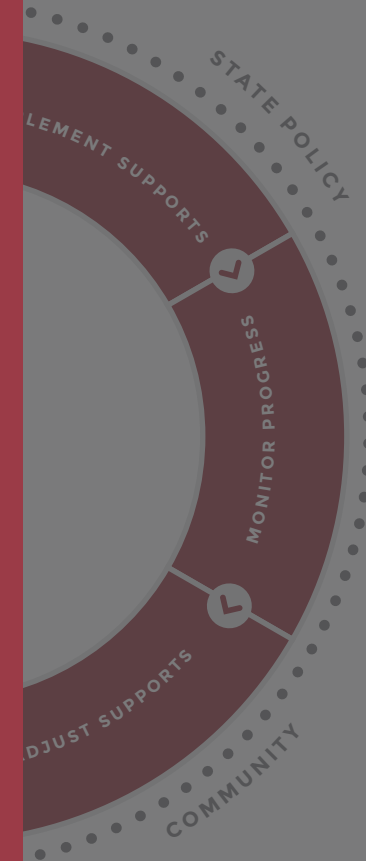


The knowledge base and contextual skills that enable students to successfully access and navigate college.



SYSTEM  
(DISTRICT & PARTNERS)

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS



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ACADEMIC  
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(SCHOOL)

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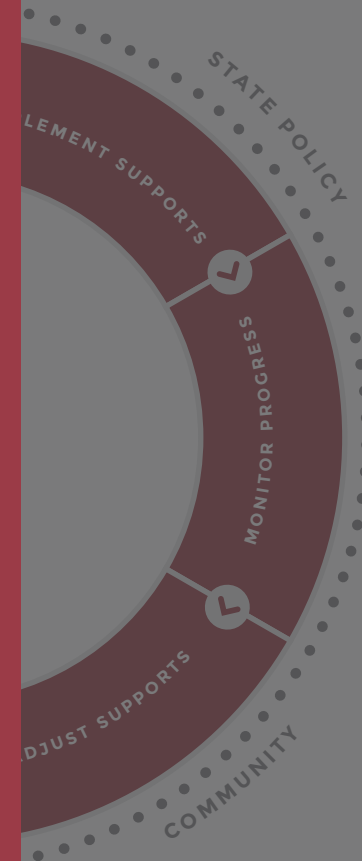
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[VIEW EXAMPLES](#) ▼

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS

[BACK](#)





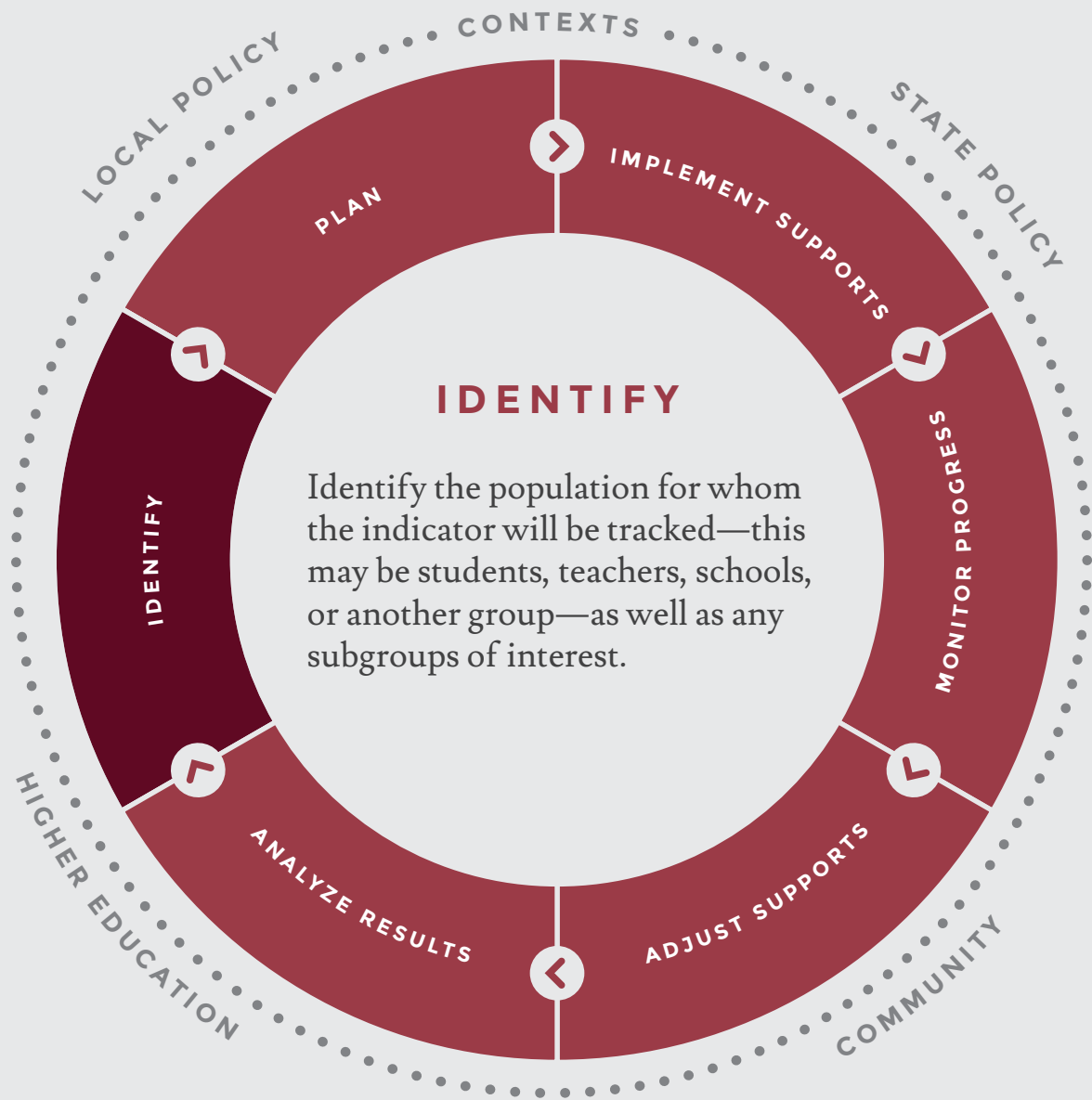
## ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY

### ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY

The Cycle of Inquiry is the mechanism connecting indicators with supports.

COLLEGE  
READINESS

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



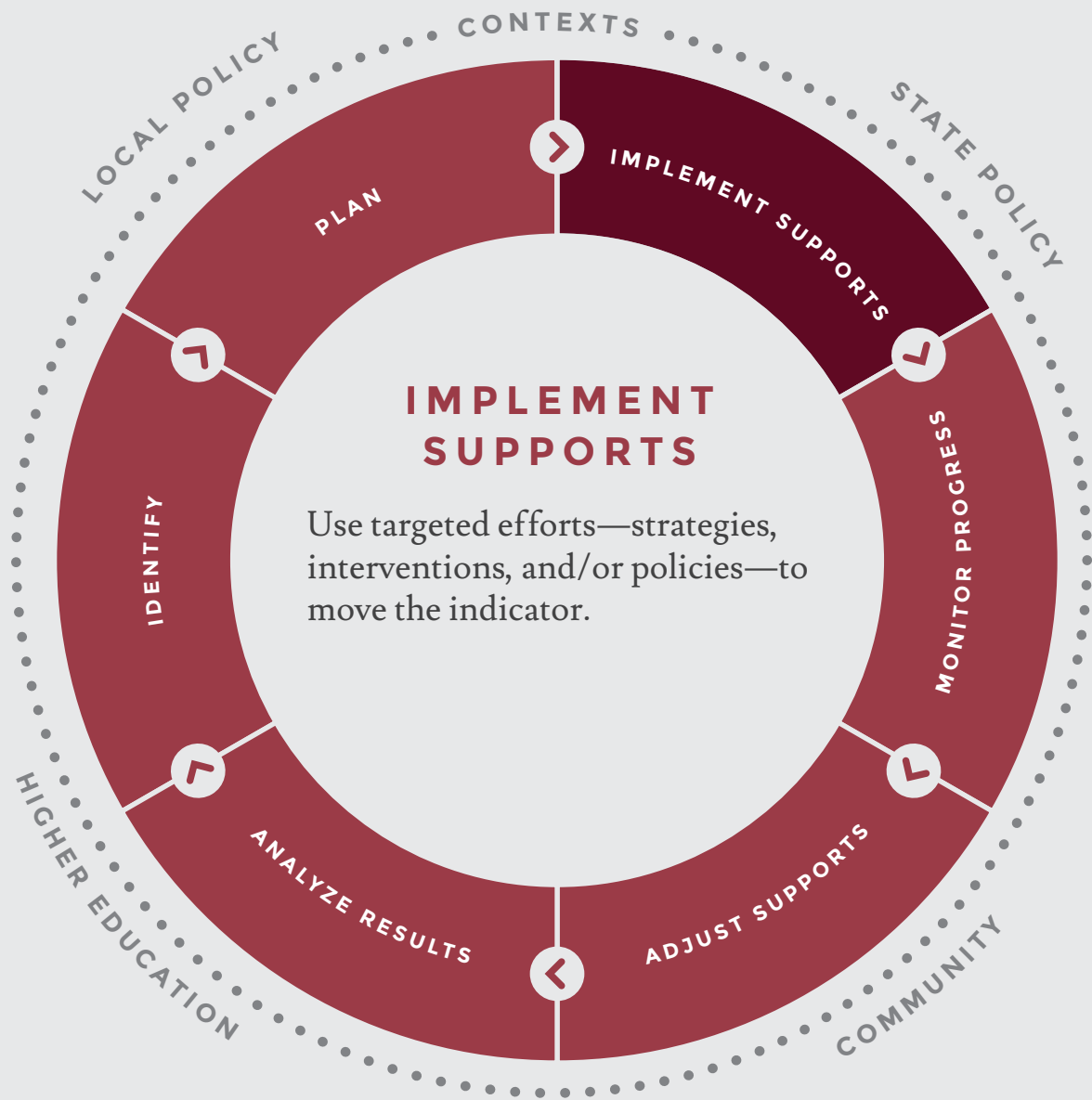
> COLLEGE READINESS

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



[>](#) COLLEGE READINESS

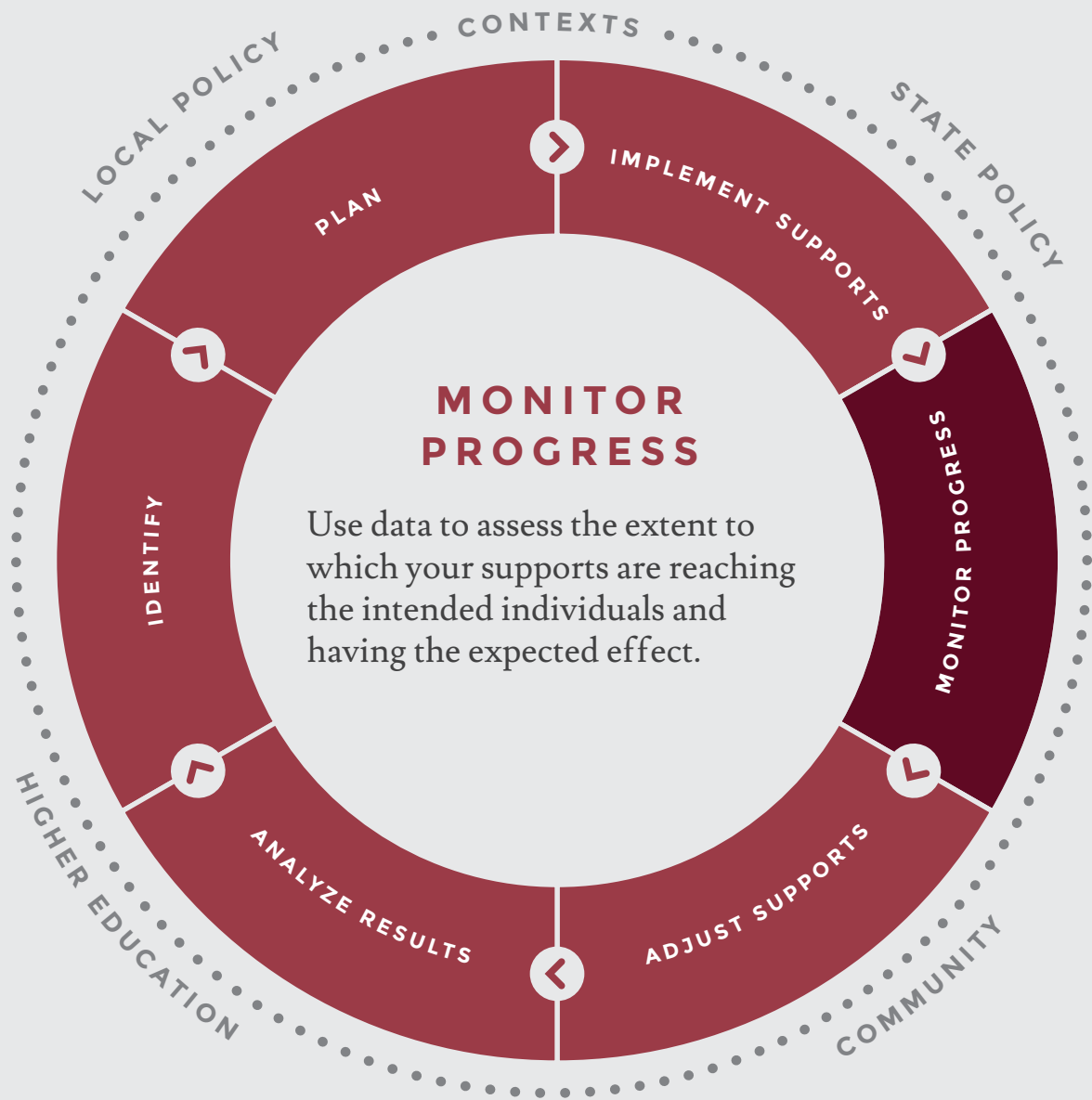
ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



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COLLEGE  
READINESS

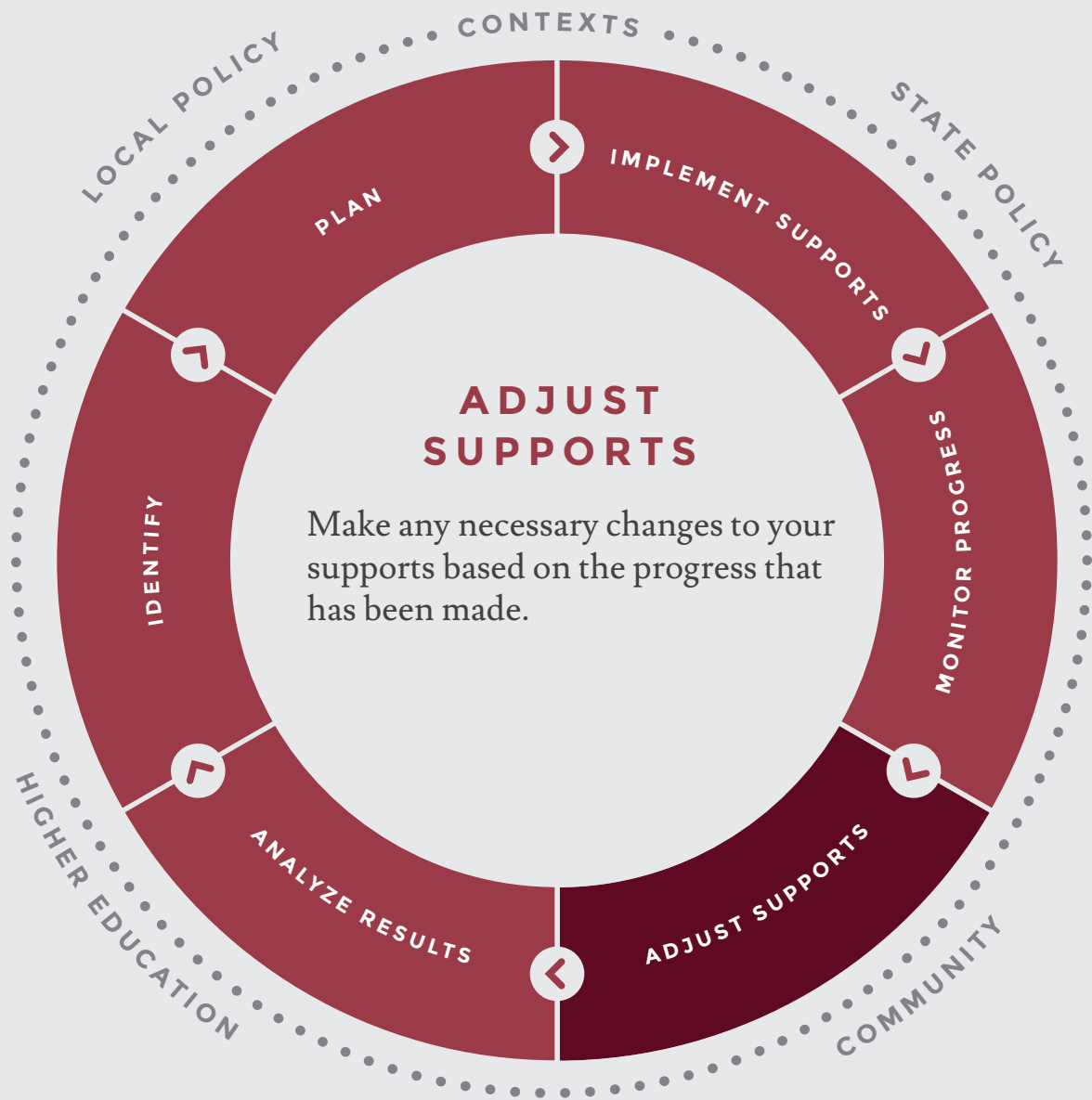
ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



[>](#) COLLEGE READINESS

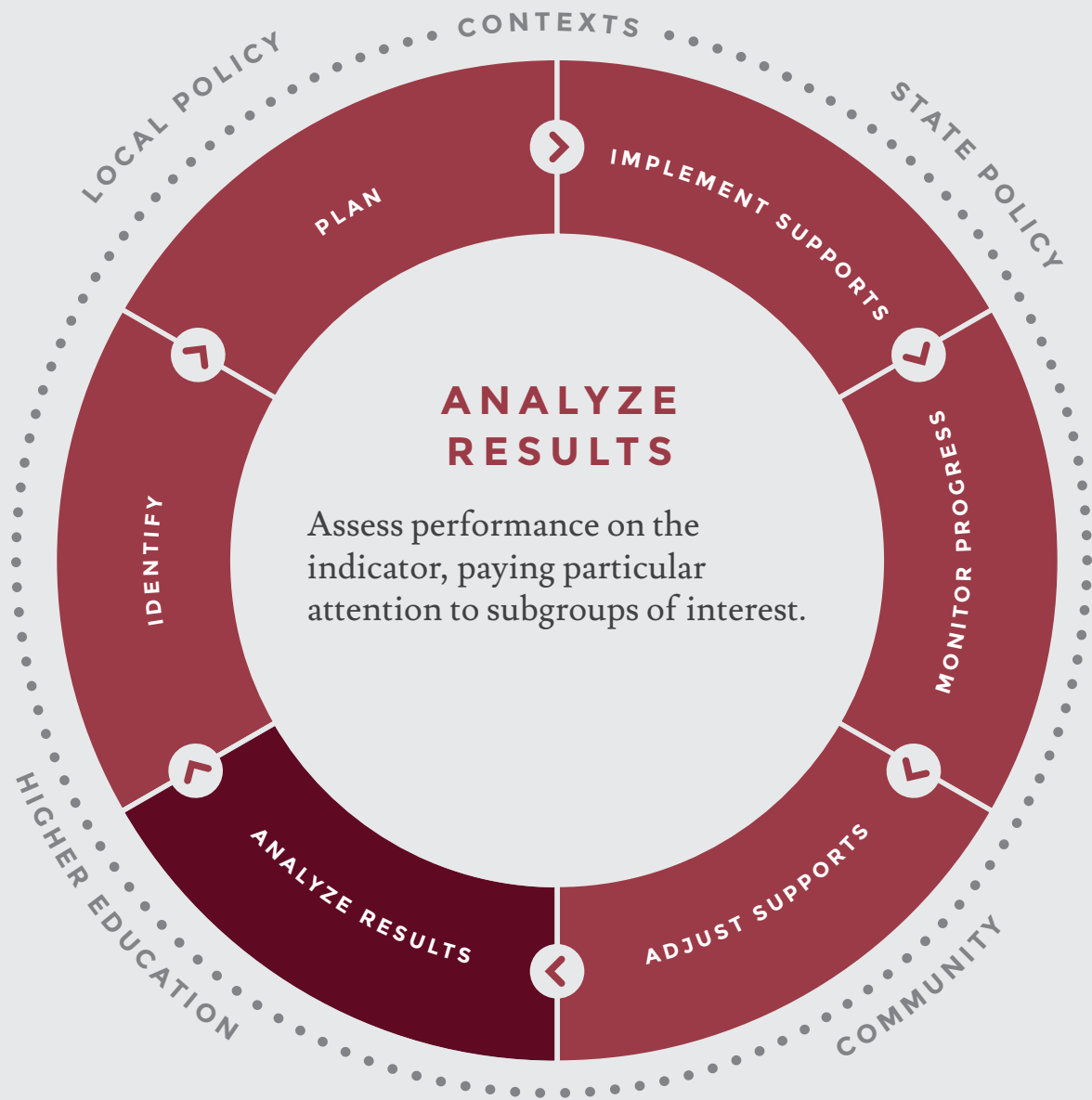


ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



[>](#) COLLEGE READINESS

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY

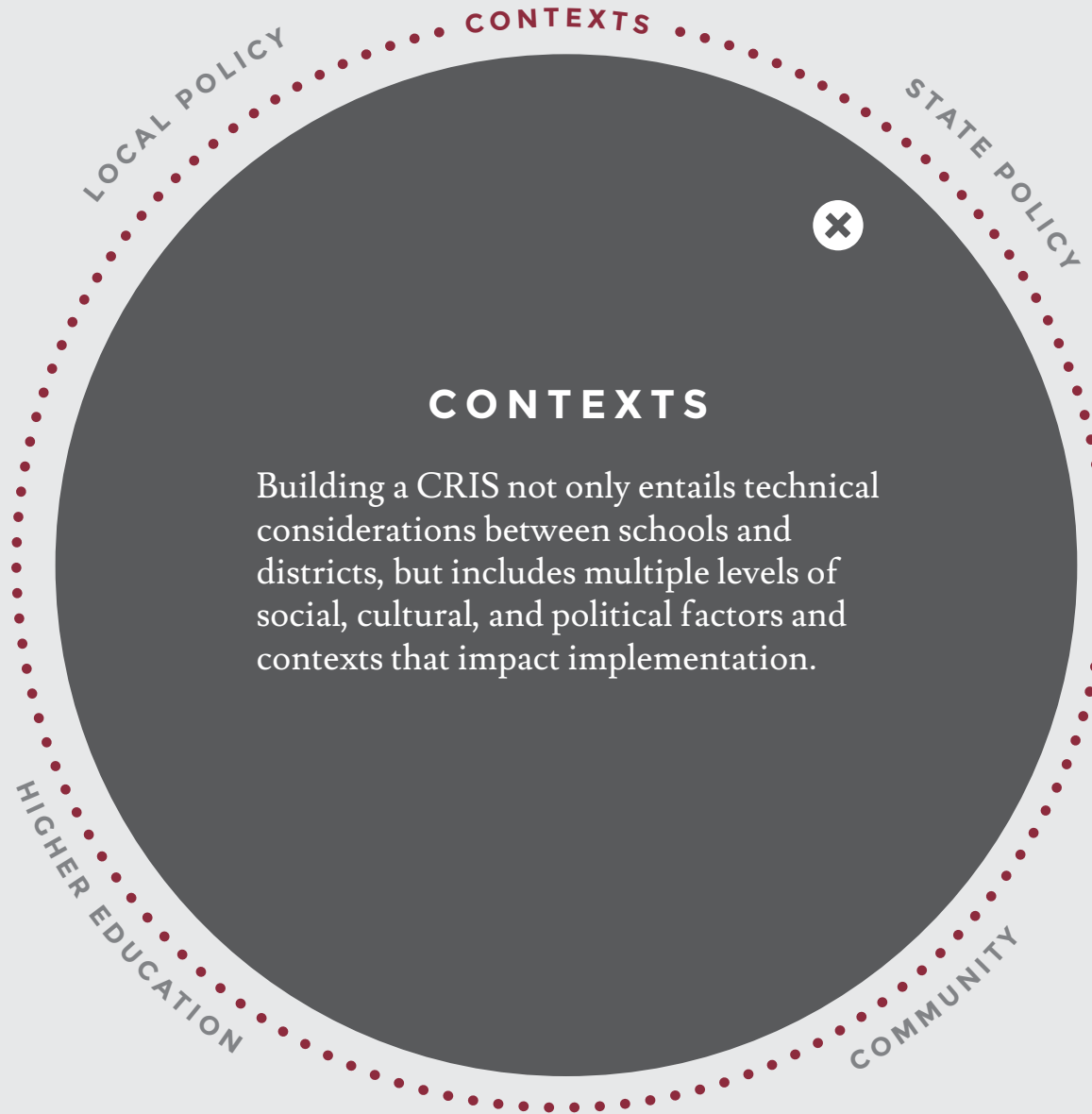


[>](#) COLLEGE READINESS





## ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



**COLLEGE  
READINESS**

ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY

TAKE STOCK & PRIORITIZE



SELECT INDICATORS



COLLEGE  
READINESS



## ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



**COLLEGE  
READINESS**



## ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY



COLLEGE  
READINESS

# ENGAGE IN CYCLE OF INQUIRY

TAKE STOCK & PRIORITIZE



SELECT INDICATORS



COLLEGE  
READINESS



## COLLEGE READINESS

College ready students have the skills, knowledge and beliefs necessary to succeed in college. College ready schools and districts provide the resources and opportunities for students to graduate high school ready for college.

You can learn more about implementing a CRIS through the CRIS Resource Series:

- CRIS Framework Narrative
- Menu of College Readiness Indicators and Supports
- Selecting Effective Indicators
- A Technical Guide to College Readiness Indicators
- District Self-Assessment Tool
- Essential Elements in Implementation