Unit 5, Activity 3: Link research with practice

Purpose	To recognize essential elements of the practice and to think about them as they appear or should appear in practice.
Time	50 minutes
Required roles	Participants; facilitator if appropriate

Group discussion   Approximate time: 50 minutes

1. The facilitator will organize participants into pairs or small groups so they can discuss the questions on page 2 of this activity. Using a talk-aloud process, or some other interactive process with the groups, the facilitator will demonstrate the first area, "What is happening to people as they foster school improvement?" Example text is written in green type on the chart below.

2. After the demonstration, participants will move in round-robin fashion to share thoughts and ideas. Focus on one area at a time, and use the chart on page 2 to record notes.

   a. What do you currently see happening in schools in each of the core areas embedded in the practice?

   b. What are the greatest challenges and frustrations for which schools continue to seek solutions?

   c. What actions would you take as the principal to address identified challenges?

Area	Description	Challenges	Principal actions
What is happening to people as they foster school improvement?	Teachers and staff are working hard.	Teachers are reverting to their old practices of staying in their silos and classrooms, rather than working together to interpret data to assess student learning.	Principals should stay on message about a learning community. Principal can schedule teacher planning so that age-group teachers plan and learn together to address student cohort needs.

Area	Description	Challenges	Principal actions
What is happening to people as they foster school improvement?			
What is happening relative to data to foster school improvement?			
What is happening relative to processes to foster school improvement?			