Strategic Implementation for Guided Pathways Reform

NCII RURAL GUIDED PATHWAYS LEADERSHIP SESSION

PARTICIPANT TOOLKIT

September 3, 2026

COLLEGE EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
aspen institute

National Center for Inquiry & Improvement
Design. Implement. Improve.

Table of Contents

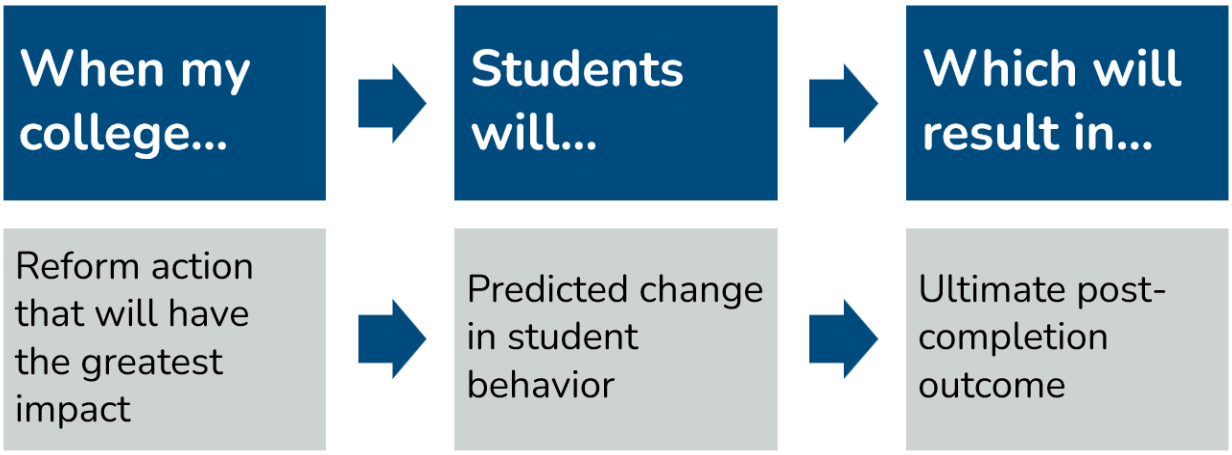
Learning Goals	3
Notes: Logic Model	4
Notes: Strategic Implementation for Guided Pathways Reform	5
Lessons from the Field: Sustaining Implementation for Continuous Institutional Improvement	6
Team Time: Strategically Implementing Guided Pathways Reforms	7-8

Learning Goals

- Understand and apply a logic model to strategically connect guided pathway reforms to an improvement in student outcomes
- Understand strategies for rural colleges to more effectively use limited institutional resources to design, implement, and evaluate guided pathway reforms

Notes

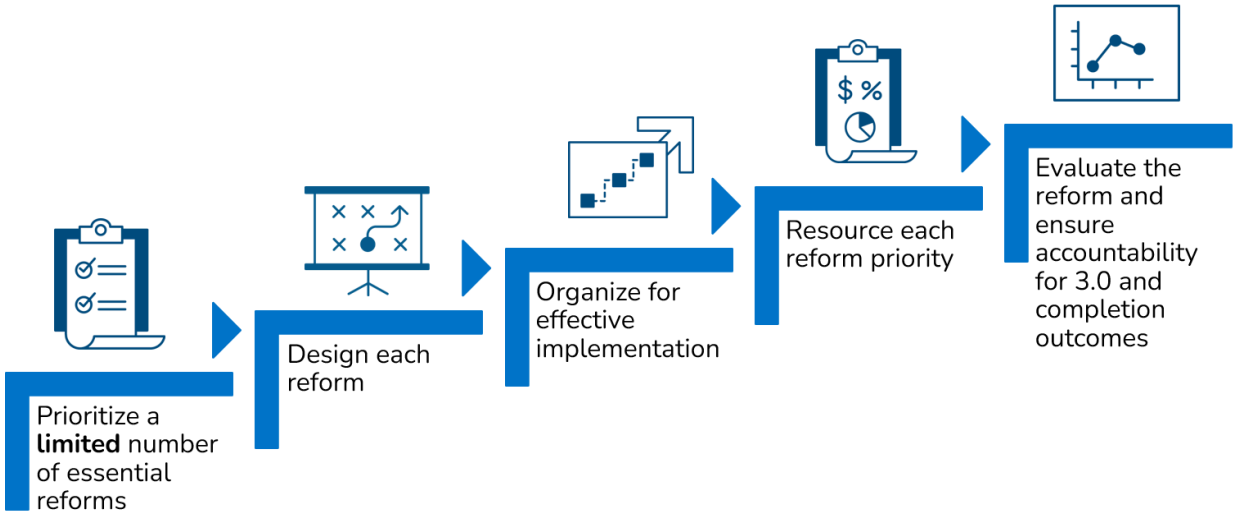
Logic Model



NOTES:

Notes

Strategic Implementation for Guided Pathways Reform



NOTES:

A Lesson from the Field: Sustaining Implementation for Continuous Institutional Improvement

- *Moderator:* Josh Wyner, Executive Director, Aspen Institute College Excellence Program
- John Enamait, President, Stanly Community College

NOTES: *Use the note-catcher below to capture reflections during the presentation and discussion.*

IDEAS	QUESTIONS

OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES

Team Time: Strategically Implementing Guided Pathways Reforms

PART ONE: DESIGNING A LOGIC MODEL (30 minutes)

Directions: Considering your quantitative guided pathways goals and lessons from the strategic implementation presentation, complete the logic model below to align your reform priorities' implementation plan with 3.0 student outcomes. We recommend working backward, beginning with the ultimate post-completion outcome, then determining the appropriate reform actions to achieve it.

Logic Model:

When my college... *Reform action that will have the greatest impact*	
Students will... *Predicted change in student behavior*	
Which will result in... *Ultimate post-completion outcome*	

PART TWO: ASSESSMENT TOOL REFLECTIONS (40 minutes)

Directions: Now that you have established a logic model for your guided pathways work, review your Strategic Implementation Assessment Tool results and discuss the questions below with your team.

Based on your Aspen Strategic Implementation Assessment Tool results:

- To what extent is the college prioritizing a limited number of essential reforms aligned to student outcome goals?
- To what extent is the college designing each reform from end to end, informed by data, aligned with realistic scaling, and embedded with evaluation metrics?
- To what extent is the college organizing cross-functional teams for effective implementation, with clear leadership and established life cycles?
- To what extent is the college planning to sustainably resource each reform priority?
- To what extent is the college evaluating each reform to ensure accountability for 3.0 outcomes?

What are the most effective ways your college's approach to strategic implementation contributes to improved student outcomes? How might your approach to implementation impede your guided pathways reform efforts? What evidence do you have from your assessment results?

What challenges do you have (or anticipate) in strategically implementing your guided pathways reforms, and how might you address them?

PART THREE: NEXT STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION (15 minutes)

Directions: Return to your logic model on the previous page. What next steps are necessary to improve your implementation structures and better enact your logic model?