



the
forum
FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT

**SYNTHESIS TO USE:
BUILDING A BRIDGE FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE**

***Poonam Borah
Forum for Youth Investment,
Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality***



Improving & Aligning
Policies



Planning and Partnering
for Impact



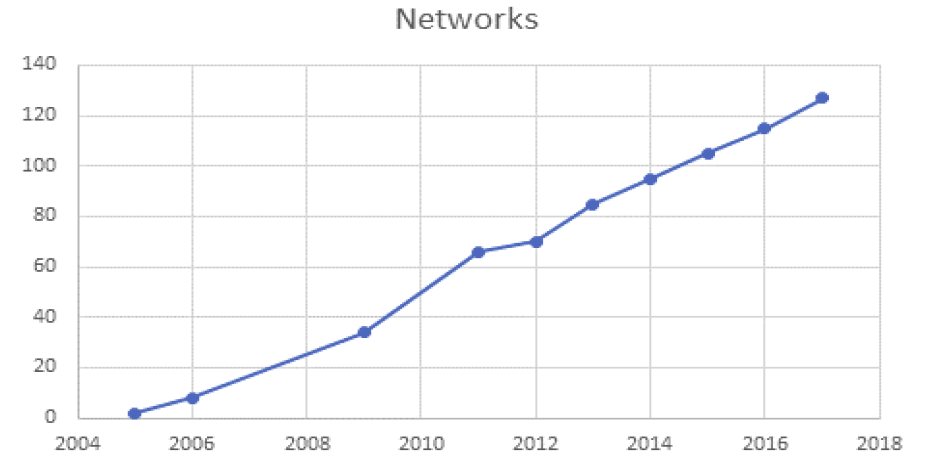
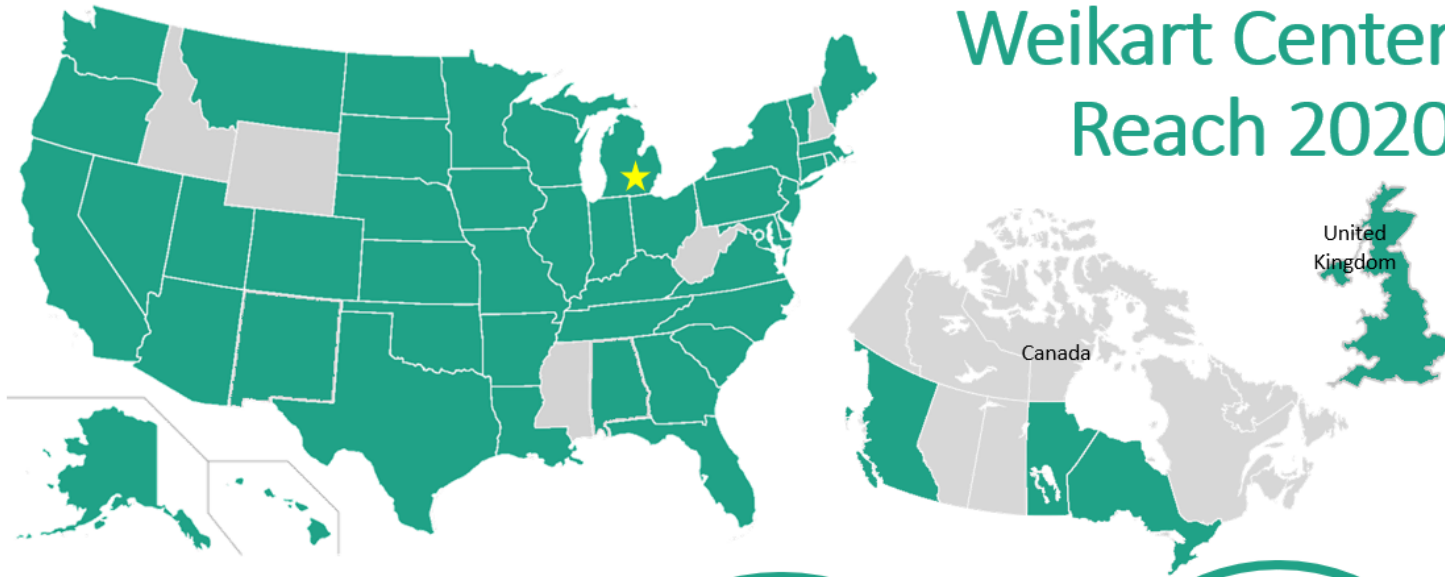
Strengthening Practices
and Programs

The Forum for Youth Investment is committed to changing the odds that all children and youth are ready for college, work, and life. We connect leaders to ideas, services, and networks that can help them make more intentional decisions that are good for young people. We help leaders who are trying to improve & align policies, plan & partner for impact, and/or strengthen programs & adult practice.

The Forum's David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality is a leader in empowering education and human service leaders to adapt, implement, and scale research-validated quality improvement systems to advance child and youth development. Training and technical assistance in quality improvement system design, effective performance data, and lower stakes accountability has helped OST networks across the country be successful, scale-able, and sustainable. The Weikart Center is a critical part of the Forum's overall effort to build leadership capacity to advance readiness and equity.

Learn more about our work and continue the discussion by visiting us at <http://www.forumfyi.org>.

Weikart Center Reach 2020



Policy Setting

140
Network/
Systems

Organization Setting

>4,800 Sites

>31,000 Staff

Estimate based on mean of 6.5 staff per site in YPQI Study Sample

Point of Service Setting

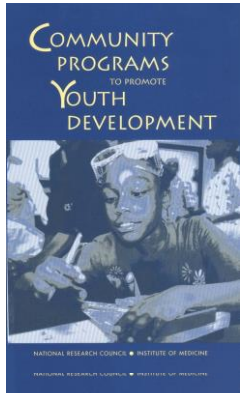
>408,000 Children & Youth

Estimate based on mean daily attendance of 85 youth per day in YPQI Study Sample



Identifying evidence-based practices

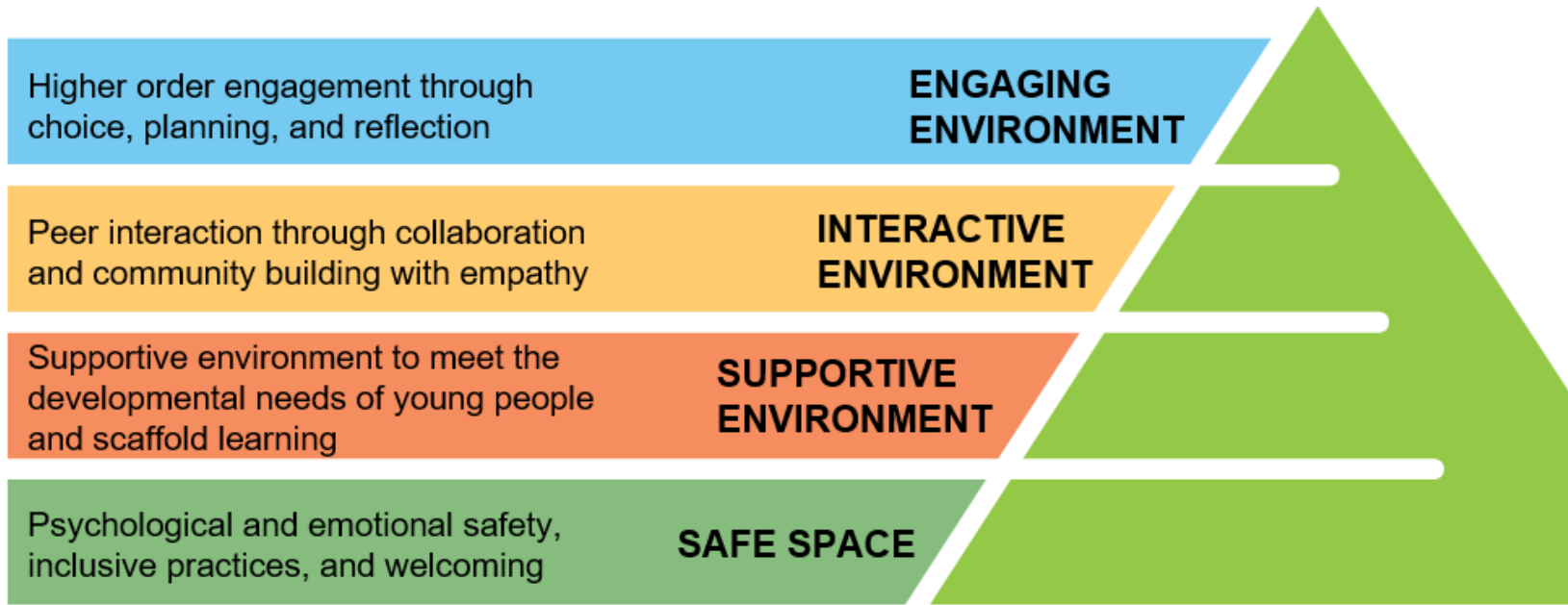
Systematic Review



Meta-Analysis

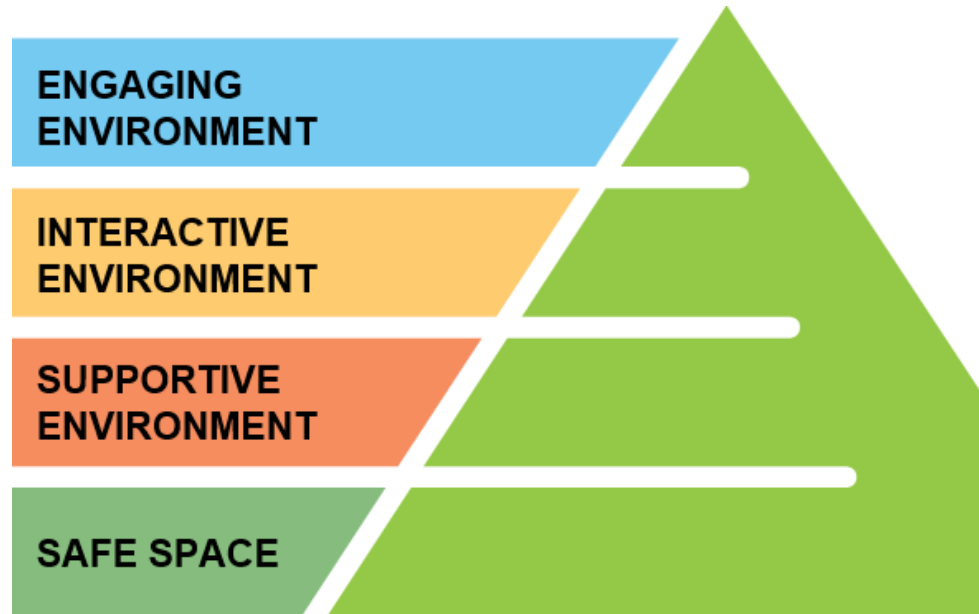


Practitioner Insights



Pyramid of Program Quality

Measuring evidence-based practices



Pyramid of Program Quality

The screenshot shows a digital form titled 'SEL PQA'. The form has a header section with the title in large white letters on a dark grey background. Below the header is a table with five rows and two columns. The first row is for 'Organization name:', the second for 'Site/Program name:', the third for 'Name of program offering(s) observed:', the fourth for 'Name of staff member(s) observed:', and the fifth for 'Date of observation:'. Each row has a corresponding empty input field. At the bottom left of the form is a small icon of a pyramid. At the bottom right is the logo for 'the forum FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT' and 'DAVID P. WEIKART CENTER FOR YOUTH PROGRAM QUALITY'.

Observational Assessment aligned to Domains of Program Quality

Example from SEL PQA | Safe Space

- 1. Foster Positive Emotional Climate
- 2. Convey Warmth and Respect
- 3. Provide Support for Safe Space
- 4. Demonstrates Positive group Management Style
- 5. Demonstrates Mutual Accountability
- 6. Show Active Inclusion



SAFE SPACE: Creating Safe Spaces

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE/ANECDOTES

1 The emotional climate of the session is predominantly negative (e.g., disrespectful, tense, exclusive, even angry or hostile); negative behaviors, such as rudeness, bragging, insults, “trash talking,” negative gestures or other such actions are not mediated by either young people or staff.

3 The emotional climate of the session is predominantly positive. Negative behaviors are mediated (e.g., countered, curtailed, defused) by staff or young people.

5 The emotional climate is always positive (e.g., mutually respectful, relaxed, equitable; characterized by teamwork, camaraderie, inclusiveness); young people and staff are observed offering encouragement, affirmations, or support to others.



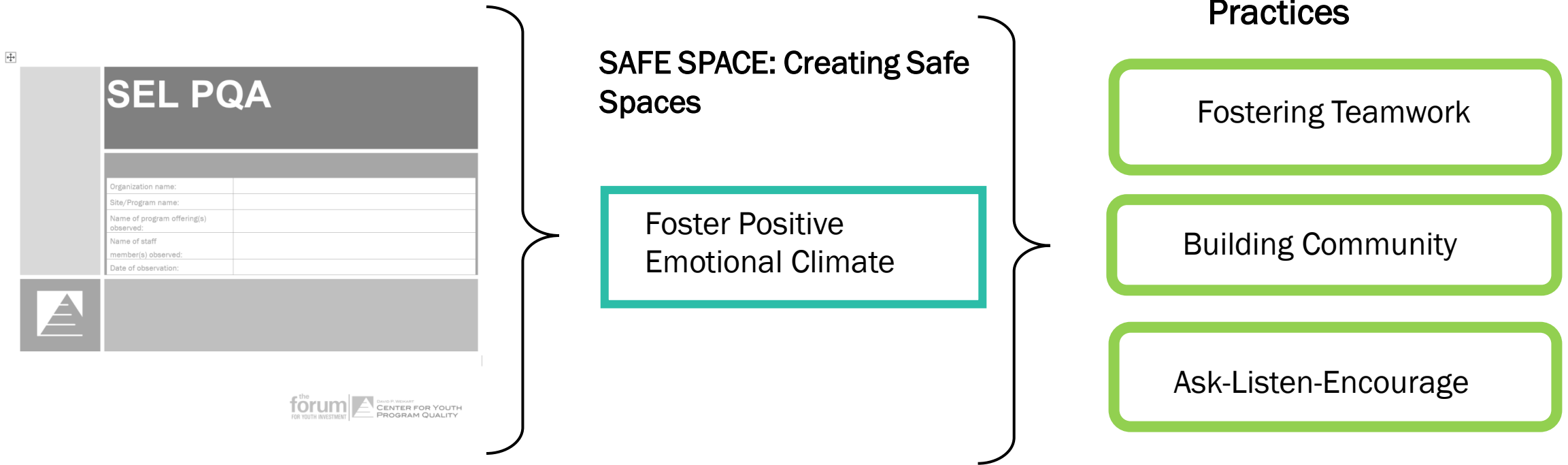
Anecdotal evidence

Level

Item

Score box

Implementation of practices



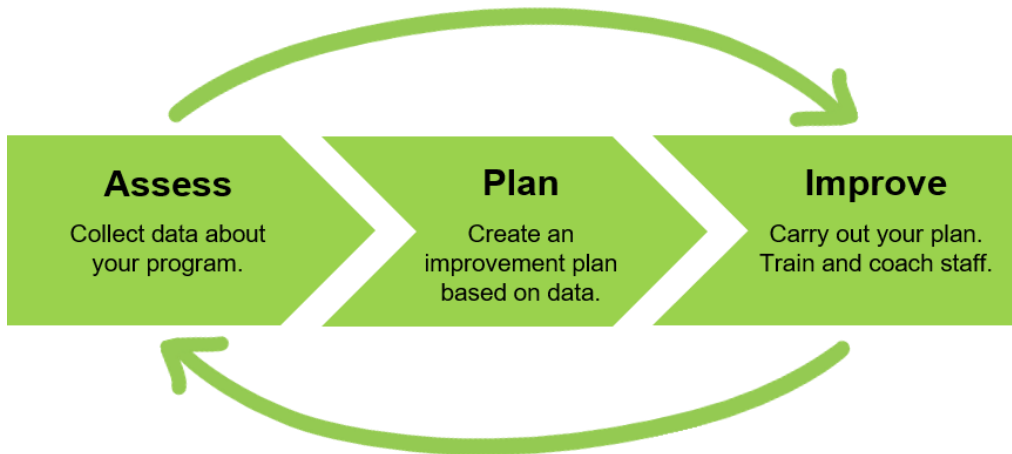
Observational Assessment
aligned to Domains of Program
Quality

Example of a Measurable
Item Description

Dedicated workshops to
coach staff on practices

Supporting Implementation: Our approach

People can thrive when they feel **SAFE** and **SUPPORTED** to **LEARN** and **LEAD**.



ACTIVE

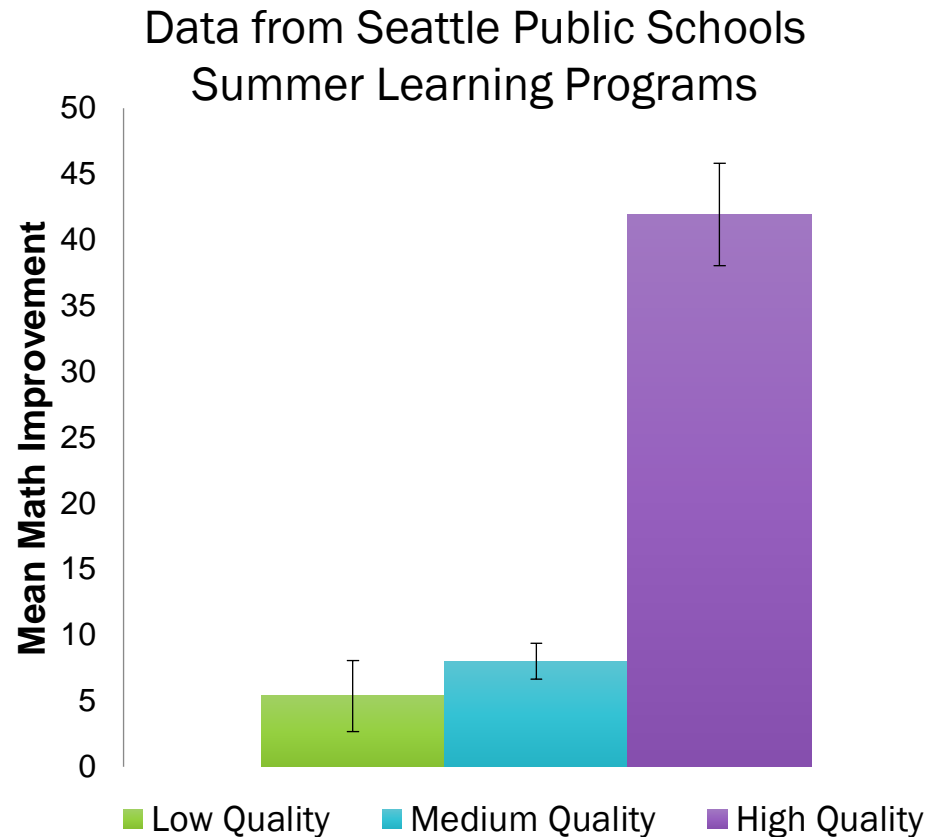
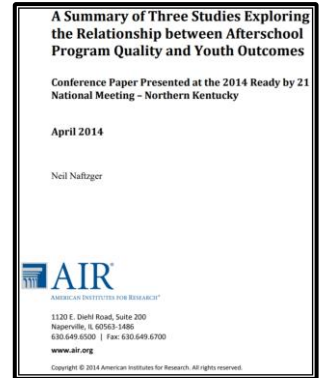
- Involves engaging the whole person in the learning process
- Learning is never passive
- Learning is social and emotional

PARTICIPATORY

- Full involvement in all aspects of youth programming
- Everyone's ideas and experiences are valued
- People are owners of their learning process
- Opportunities to engage in authentic
- Decision making and opportunities to provide feedback to adults.

Quality Adult Practice to Youth Outcomes

Results from impact evaluations



Studies:

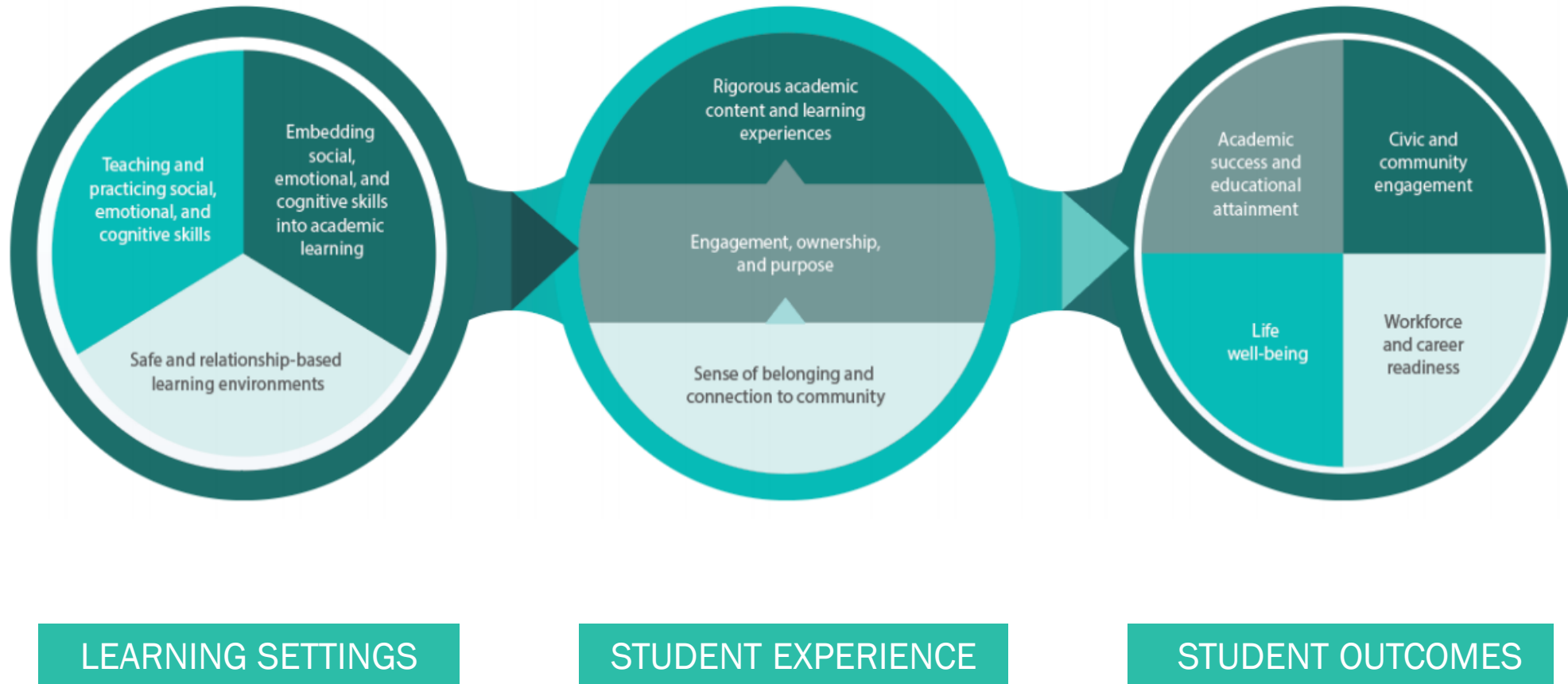
- Texas 21st CCLC Evaluation
- Palm Beach QIS Impact Study
- Nashville Exploratory Youth Outcomes Study



PQA Scores Correlate with:

- School Attendance
- School Behavior
- Grade Promotion
- Grades
- Achievement

Quality Matters!



Thank You!

For more information, contact Poonam Borah

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