

Overview:

It's hard to imagine a more difficult time to be a freshman. Network data reflect the weight of the challenges this fall, and subgroup gaps reveal troubling trends. We must support our Grade 9 students -- and educator teams -- by working together to pursue creative ideas. Together, we will explore current Grade 9 data and consider implications for our work going forward.

Objectives:

- Establish a shared understanding of key Grade 9 data, challenges, and pockets of success.
- Promote inquiry around the diverse factors affecting the current on-track rates of for Grade 9 students
- Encourage educators to change practice(s) in their control to address things that may be out of their control.

Pre-Work:

Please read a brief article from the University of Chicago's To & Through Project, [Why Middle Schoolers Are Frustrating But Endearing](#). As you read, please consider **the importance of relationships in the high school context and the ways in which this article is relevant to your everyday work with freshmen.**

Agenda (Slides):

- Welcome!** 20 Minutes
 - Network Partner Check-Ins: "I am a Grade 9 Champion because..."
 - RISE Introduction and session objectives overview
- Thinking Big | Understanding the Urgency of the Moment** 15 Minutes
 - What we knew before, what we know now, and what we want to be true.
 - [Student Support Inquiry Framework Poster](#), [Training](#), & [Activity](#)
- Acting Small | Cross-District Ideation and Collaboration** 30 Minutes
 - Step 1, Identify 1-2 root causes or present day challenges (10 min)
 - Step 2, Review the effective strategies submitted by your peers (2-5 min)
 - Step 3, Determine actions, within your locus of control, that can help address the challenge your group has discussed (15-18 min)
- Closing | What's Next?** 5 Minutes
 - School level data overview
 - [Feedback Survey](#) and [Virtual Family Workshop: The Importance of Grade 9!](#)
- Team Time** 20 Minutes
 - 7 min: What is the data headline for our school?
 - 7 min: What did you hear in the cross-district conversations?
 - 6 min: What new insights did you glean -- for yourself in your role? For our school team's work?

Breakout Jamboards

During part two of our session, you will be in cross-district breakout groups. During this time RISE staff will share a collaborative Jamboard. The links to all Jamboards can be found in this [folder](#), or by clicking the links below:

Johana Rendon	Karle Norman	Stephanie Fakharzadeh	Sam Purdy
Rickeena Holloway	Nichelle Woodson	Ellen Fugate	Emily Pallin

Team Time

To close the session, we will have dedicated space for your school based team to reflect on your own data, and develop action steps to move this conversation forward beyond this session. All school documents can be found in this [folder](#), or by clicking the links below.

BMHS	Career	EHHS	HPHS	Manchester
Middletown	Maloney	Naugatuck	Platt	Westhill