

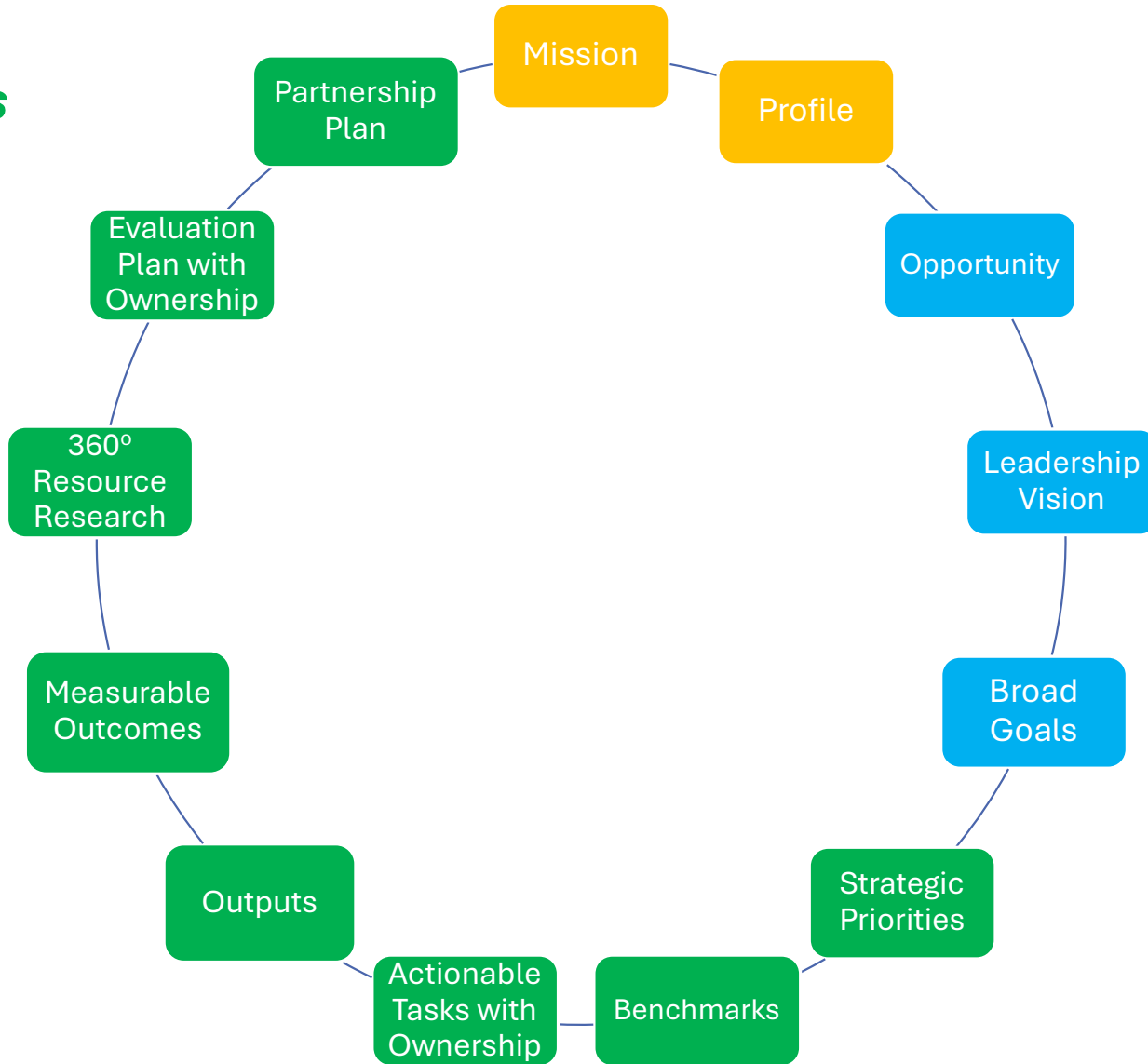
360° Grant Development

*strategic school improvement planning
through the lens of philanthropy*

facilitated by Dr. Jo Weller, Managing Director of BFFKC

*Most grant proposals fail for the same reason
strategic plans fail — the vision sounds inspiring,
but the path to measurable impact is unclear.*

Clarity Builds Confidence



Fund or Don't Fund?

School A seeks to strengthen literacy programming so that all students become thoughtful readers, effective writers, and confident communicators prepared for college, career, and life. Teachers are increasingly seeing students struggle to organize their thinking, communicate clearly in writing, and engage confidently in academic discourse across content areas.

To address this need, School A is requesting \$75,000 for a comprehensive literacy initiative designed to enhance instructional practices, expand authentic learning opportunities, and strengthen a culture of literacy throughout the school community. Funding will support staffing, professional development, collaborative instructional planning, innovative literacy resources, flexible learning environments, interdisciplinary experiences, student support structures, and instructional technologies aligned to the evolving needs of today's learners. The initiative is expected to positively impact more than 600 students annually.

This initiative represents a transformational opportunity to reimagine literacy learning while positioning School A as a leader in innovative Catholic education. Through strategic investments in instructional excellence, student engagement, and collaborative teaching practices, the school seeks to foster meaningful academic growth, strengthen student voice and ownership, and build long-term momentum toward improved student achievement and institutional sustainability.

Fund or Don't Fund?

School A seeks to launch a Writing Center that strengthens literacy instruction across disciplines and provides students with consistent support in developing critical thinking, communication, research, and writing skills. The Writing Center will become a valued partner program used by 100% of classrooms, ensuring that 100% of graduates are competent and confident writers in both formal and informal settings.

Goal: *100% of students will meet or exceed proficiency benchmarks on internal mastery writing assessments, 100% of students will self-identify as confident writers, and 100% of graduates will demonstrate college-ready communication skills across all academic disciplines.*

Fund or Don't Fund?

Goal: *By Spring 2029, at least 90% of students will meet or exceed proficiency benchmarks on internal mastery writing assessments, at least 75% of students will self-identify as confident writers, and at least 85% of seniors will meet ACT English (18) and Reading (22) benchmarks, and those taking ACT Writing will average 8 or above.*

Strategies:

- *Integrate the Writing Center as a consistent resource in every classroom (not just a remedial or optional support).*
- *Build a culture of writing across content areas by partnering with teachers on assignments and feedback.*
- *Provide students with regular opportunities for both formal (essays, research papers) and informal (reflections, journals) writing with constructive feedback.*
- *Track growth through student writing portfolios, feedback loops with teachers, and Writing Center usage - ACT correlation.*

BFFKC Logic Model for Goal Momentum

This Logic Model is your roadmap for turning a big vision into clear steps and real progress. It connects long-term aspirations with focused goals for this school year, helping you see both the impact of today’s work and how it builds momentum for tomorrow. By making success concrete and measurable, it keeps us accountable while also giving us space to celebrate the growth we achieve together.

Vision Statement: *What is your big aspiration for students? (Your “North Star.”)*

Long-Term Student Goal: *Over the next 3-5 years, what measurable student-centered outcome are you working towards?*

Long-Term Strategies: *What broad approaches will help you achieve your goal?*

| 2025-26 Benchmark Goals | 2025-26 Major Tasks | 2025-26 Outputs | 2025-26 Outcomes | Data to be Gathered | Resources Needed | Reflection/ Evaluation Plan |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <i>What does success look like this year?</i> | <i>What concrete actions must happen this year?</i> | <i>What tangible evidence will show tasks were completed (e.g., # teachers trained, # students participating, projects, PD sessions)?</i> | <i>What improvements do you want to see in skills, performance, attitudes, behaviors, etc?</i> | <i>What data will you use to assess your progress?</i> | <i>What supports are required (time, staffing, PD, materials, coaching, space, etc.)?</i> | <i>How well did strategies/tasks move you toward the goal? What will you adjust?</i> |

Hitting the aspirational and operational notes of a high-quality grant proposal?

Opportunity? Leadership Vision? Broad Goals?

Strategic Priorities? Benchmarks? Actionable Tasks with Ownership? Measurable Outcomes? 360° Resource Research? Evaluation Plan with Ownership? Partnership Plan?

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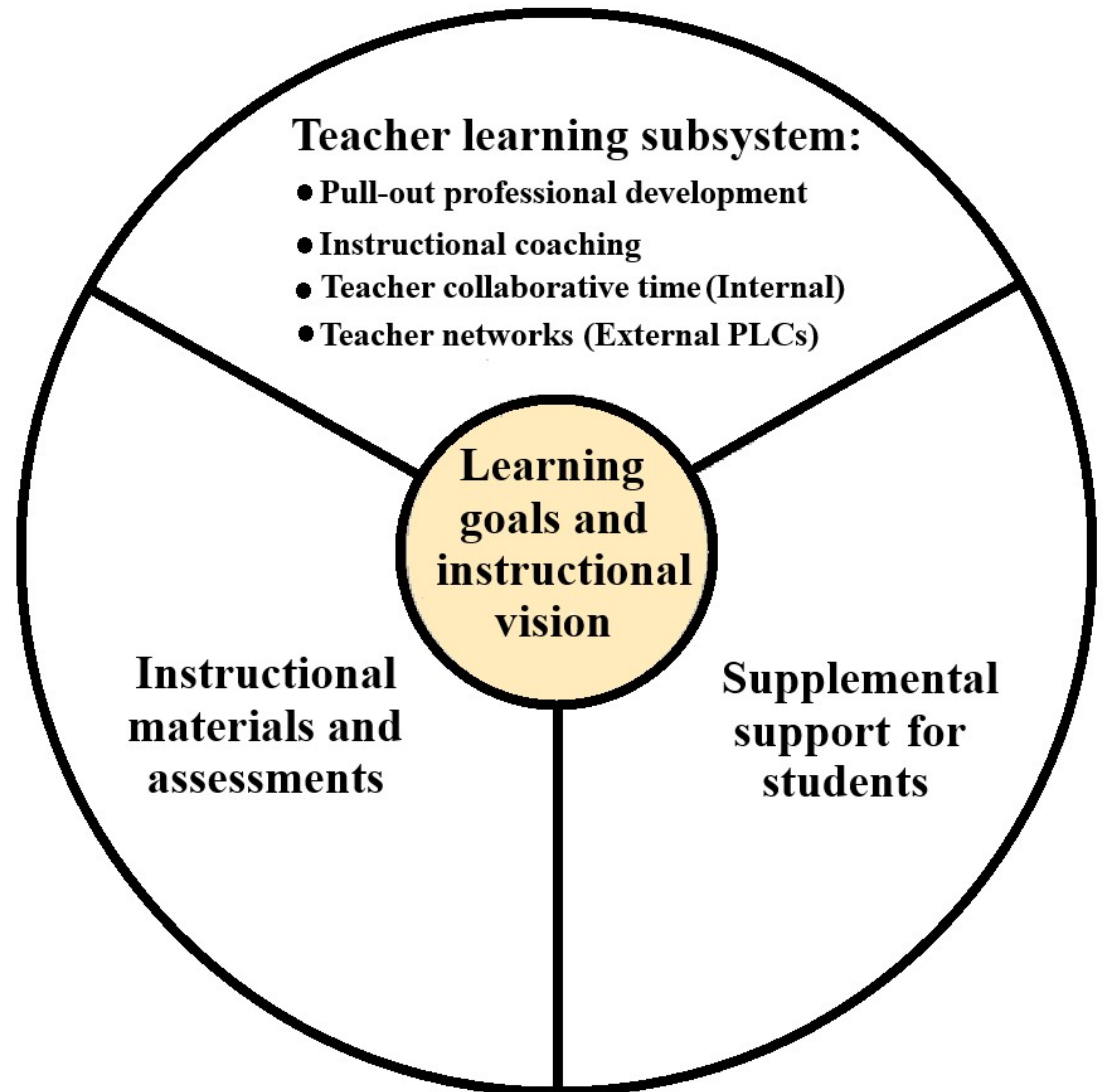
BFFKC 360° Resource Research

Essential Question:

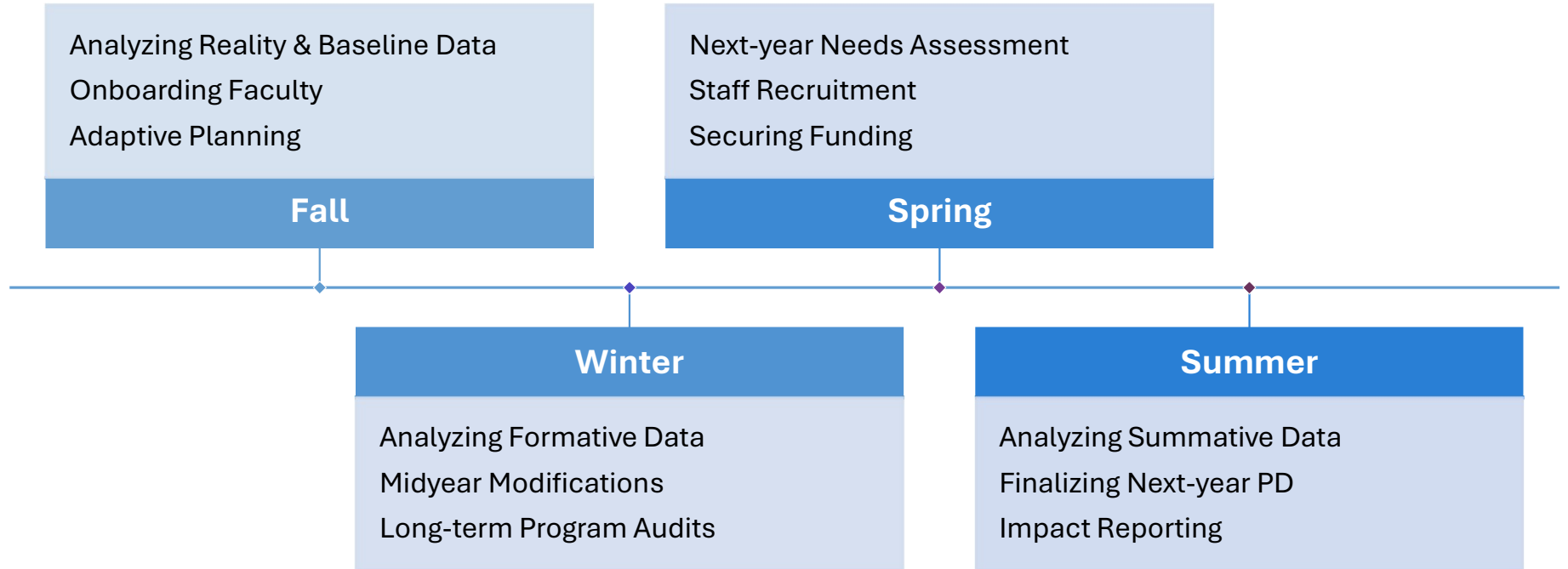
What's needed to move the needle on core classroom instruction?

Parameters:

- Student-centered academic outcomes
- Valid K-12
- Valid for Literacy, Math, Science



BFFKC Partnership Cycle



Why it matters

Funders increasingly expect measurable goals, evaluation plans, and clear evidence collection as part of grant proposals.

*Sources: Commonfund / CASE fundraising trends, 2026
& Grants.gov Evaluation Guidance, 2025*

Logic models help reviewers “quickly understand the logic behind a proposal and assess its feasibility and potential impact.”

Source: Oklahoma State University Extension, 2025

“Catholic schools that are growing — and sustaining that growth — are the ones leaning into data.”

— NCEA 2025 Conference Reporting

Why it fits

ANDREA HILLEBERT

Your school has a Mission Statement. You've crafted a Vision. You know "the words" that define your school. (And if your school doesn't have those - yet - we'll talk about how to form them). This session begins with the premise that the most impactful step a principal can take is ensuring that every decision, every action, every discussion comes back to: This is who we are. This is what we do. It is the exact opposite of limiting. It allows your school to grow with intention and authenticity. And that authenticity is what people feel when they walk in the doors.



Breakout Session: How Principals Set the Tone and Culture of a School and its Role in Retention

ANDY TYLICKI, DR. SHANE RAPP & SAM ROCKFORD

Do you feel like you're building the plane while you fly it? Do you find yourself in "ready, SHOOT, aim" mode? If so, learn how a strategic plan can help your organization find its way. This session will focus on what goes into a strategic plan, how it can guide and focus your decisions, and how it can change the trajectory of your school.



Breakout Session: The Order of Things Matters: Why a Strategic Plan Should Precede Action

MICHAEL BARVICK

Making the ask is only one part of a successful advancement strategy. Growing your school or institution's philanthropic support depends on building strong and lasting relationships with your benefactors. In this session, participants will learn ways to engage with donors before, during and after making a solicitation in order to bring them closer to your mission and ensure they increase their investment both now and into the future.



Breakout Session: Building a Culture of Stewardship: How Involvement Leads to Investment

KIRSTEN WONDRA

Learn how schools can use data not just to report outcomes, but to drive mission-driven strategic growth. Grounded in improvement science, this session will explore practical ways to identify the right problem, study variation, test small changes, and measure what matters most. Participants will leave with simple tools--including driver diagrams, process measures, and continuous improvement strategies--that help school leaders move from data collection to action in advancement, enrollment, and long-range planning.



Breakout Session: Getting Better at Getting Better: Data for Mission-Driven Growth

Grabbables!

Stay Connected:

Jo Weller - BFFKC

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Day 2 Workshop: 9:30 AM -10:20 AM

