

## PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOCUS: PRINCIPLE #2: MEASURE THE IMPORTANT THINGS

There are nine principles for organizational excellence that serve as a foundation for the work that we all do to make TASD the best district it can be. Each month we will highlight one principle and relate it to the work that we are doing through our Continuous School Improvement tools and strategies.

Focus Principle: Principle #2: Measure the Important Things

With purpose statements in place, we now turn our focus to implementing the PDSA process throughout our district. One of the key elements to this process is studying the effectiveness of the strategies we are trying out, which means figuring out what data or measures will give us quality feedback. This is the heart of principle #2 Measure the Important Things.

When we seek to live out principle #2 we are continuously tracking progress to achieve results with an improvement mindset. It is important to note that we are not measuring everything. No matter what level of student we work with, there is an abundance of data available to choose from. This can seem over-

whelming, so having a clear outcome in mind will help “filter” out data that doesn’t move us towards our goal. Finding one or two key areas to measure makes the process more manageable and allows us to make more refined adjustments to our PDSA cycles by focusing on a specific area of targeted improvement.

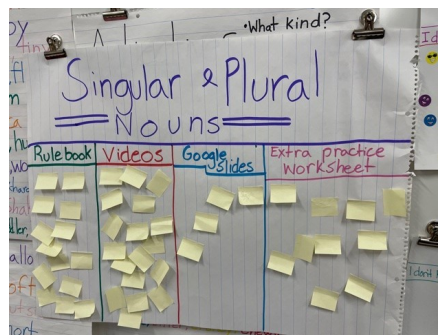
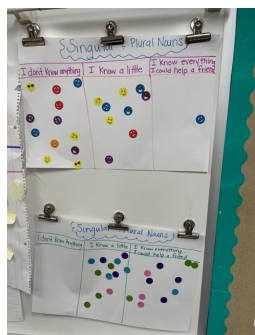
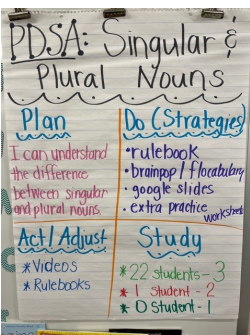
Some things to consider when attempting to measure the important things:

- Be sure you have a clear goal in mind as you start out your PDSA cycle to know what sorts of thing will make sense to measure.
- The important measure may be specific to your whole class, a group of students, an individual, or even yourself.
- Identifying the root cause of the challenge will help you identify what measure may matter. The CSI Coaches have a number of tools that can help with identifying root causes.
- NWEA data may be a good starting point for identifying measures that matter.



## CSI IN ACTION—USING PDSA PROCESSES IN THE CLASSROOM

These pictures show how 3rd graders at Venture Elementary are using PDSA processes in the classroom to improve grammar skills.



In these videos, see how teachers are using PDSA processes in their classrooms:

[Mrs. Johnson—5th Grade](#)

[Mrs. Palleschi—HS ELA](#)