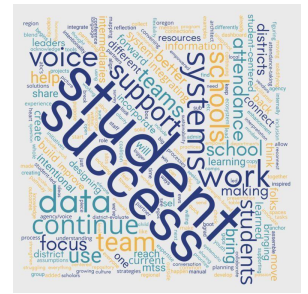


Identifying and Communicating Success

Theme Snapshot

June 2026



To mark the close of the first year of the Student Success District Network, we explored aspects of identifying and sharing successes related to implementing student success systems within a continuous improvement process. The June session included a panel discussion with New York City District 3 and Johns Hopkins Center for Technology in Education reflecting on the importance of identifying and celebrating successes throughout an implementation process, and discussed strategies for leveraging those successes to further improve student success system implementation.

Connecting to Team Practice

Connect theme content with ongoing planning and actions.

Reflection Question

Focusing on one student success system milestone that was planned for the last year, reflect on (1) the extent to which the milestone was achieved, (2) what you learned from that work, and (3) how to share the story of that success. Consider who is most central to understanding the work that was accomplished, who are your most important communication audiences, and why.

Next Steps

Think of an intervention, teacher, or student that illustrates student success system progress last year. Write a story that describes a challenge the student success team experienced, how the student success system worked provided a solution to that challenge, and the impact achieved. Include any quantifiable data that can support the story's impact.

Online Resources

Community of Practice: Reflecting to Refine and Sustain Success. The GRAD Partnership Community of Practice session focused on reviewing impact data, sharing successes and outback, and deciding whether to adopt, adapt, or abandon strategies.

<https://www.gradpartnership.org/events/community-of-practice-refine-and-sustain/>

Developing a Success Story. A brief two-page resource that lays out a concise format for writing success stories, with writing tips.

https://emorycenters4phtraining.emory.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/052416_OSH_SuccessStory_Final.pdf

District 3 Year 1 Interventions. New York City Public Schools District 3 created a graphic to highlight the priority interventions put in place in each school through their student success system with a goal for the intervention and measures for success. This graphic was used to highlight their progress implementing a student success system.

https://www.gradpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/DistrictNetwork_NYCD3Interventions.pdf

The Science of Storytelling. This article explores the way our brains are wired for storytelling. Storytelling can make our message more persuasive and lead to a more lasting impression.

<https://lifehacker.com/the-science-of-storytelling-why-telling-a-story-is-the-5965703>

Small Wins, Big Impact: Recognizing and Celebrating Progress at Work. The University of Minnesota blog posts discusses the role of everyday accomplishments in building momentum and supporting lessons learned, as well as the importance of recognition related to small wins.

<https://hr.umn.edu/supervising/news/Small-Wins-Big-Impact-Recognizing-and-Celebrating-Progress-Work>

Why Celebrating Small Wins Matters. This article from Harvard Summer School focuses on helping young individuals understand the power of setting and celebrating small wins. The article's message works both for implementation teams and the students they are working with in schools.

<https://summer.harvard.edu/blog/why-celebrating-small-wins-matters/>