



Focused Walkthroughs, Collective Impact: Aligning Practice Across Schools

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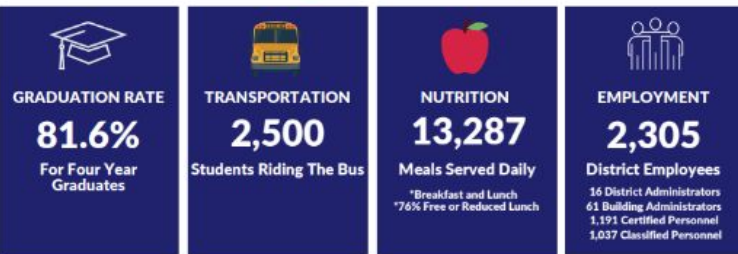
13,004 Students

32 Schools

ENROLLMENT

848 Pre-K Students
5,388 K-5 Students
2,616 Middle School Students
4,152 High School Students

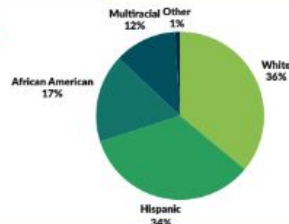
- 3 Early Childhood Centers
- 14 Elementary Schools
- 6 Middle Schools
- 5 High Schools
- 1 Virtual School
- 1 College Prep Academy
- 1 Learning Academy
- 1 Advanced Learning Center



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

**#1 MOST DIVERSE
SCHOOL DISTRICT
IN KANSAS**

According to niche.com.



CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION



SIGNATURE & MAGNET SCHOOL CAMPUSES



ABOUT TOPEKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MISSION

- Engage students in the highest quality learning.
- Prepare students for responsible, productive citizenship.
- Inspire excellence for a lifetime.

VISION

Topeka Public Schools will be recognized nationally for academic excellence, post-secondary and career success, and achievement in the arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

Strengthened by diversity & a welcoming & inclusive environment, our district will cultivate partnerships with staff, families, business & industry, & the greater community to develop students' educational, physical, & social-emotional well being.

Session Clarity - Learning Intention

We are learning how focused walkthroughs can be used as a system-level improvement strategy to align instructional priorities, professional learning, and leadership actions across schools.

Session Clarity - Success Criteria

We will be successful when we can...

1. Identify the key design elements of an effective district-wide walkthrough process.
2. Explain how walkthrough data can be used to connect instructional priorities with coaching support, PLCs, and professional learning.
3. Identify one action my district or school could take to strengthen alignment through walkthroughs.

KESA 2.0 Journey

Focused on two fundamentals:

1. **Structured Literacy - Professional Development & PLCs**
2. Standards Alignment
3. Balanced Assessment
4. **Quality Instruction - PLCs & Educator Evaluation**

TPS Impact Framework

Walkthroughs focus on the TPS framework.

1. Based on Dr. John Hattie's Visible Learning research.
2. Designed based on our specific needs.
3. First 3 areas selected after 1,000+ local observations (2021-2022).
4. Targets TPS needs: structured literacy, increasing rigor, discourse, and critical thinking.



IMPACT FRAMEWORK

High-Impact Instruction Through Integrated Practices



How do you get
walkthroughs to
actually influence
practice across
schools?

What Happens After the Walkthrough?

Think about the last walkthrough data collection effort in your district.

Where did the data go next?

Common realities:

- Data sits in spreadsheets
- Principals analyze data individually
- Teachers never see the data trends
- Professional learning is disconnected
- Walkthroughs become compliance





Ci3T

Using evidence to strengthen our multi-tiered system of support.



PLCs

Informing collaborative conversations and data-based decision making.



School Improvement

Identifying priorities and monitoring progress toward goals.



Instructional Coaching

Guiding coaching conversations and focus areas.



Professional Learning

Shaping relevant, timely learning opportunities.



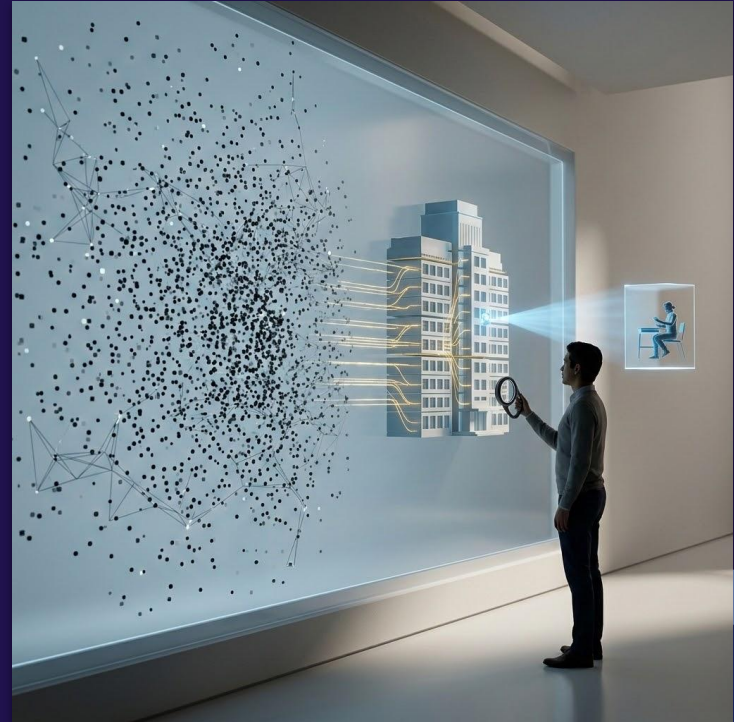
District Strategic Plan

Ensuring alignment of actions with district priorities and goals.



The Design | Creating System-Wide Value

1. Current Practices
2. Observation Focus
3. Evidence to Action
4. District Measures



DESIGNING OUR WALKTHROUGH SYSTEM



TYPES OF WALKS



Walkthrough
frequent, short
in duration



Learning Walk
leadership team,
specific focus areas



Instructional Rounds
teachers visit
classrooms



Ci3T Direct Observations
implementation fidelity



SHARED LOOK FORS



Rubrics



**Observation
look-fors**



**Calibration is
essential!**



BUILDING THE TOOL



**Walkthrough
forms**



**Observation
look-fors**



**Data
dashboards**

Systems for Monitoring and Support

- **Walkthroughs | Daily**

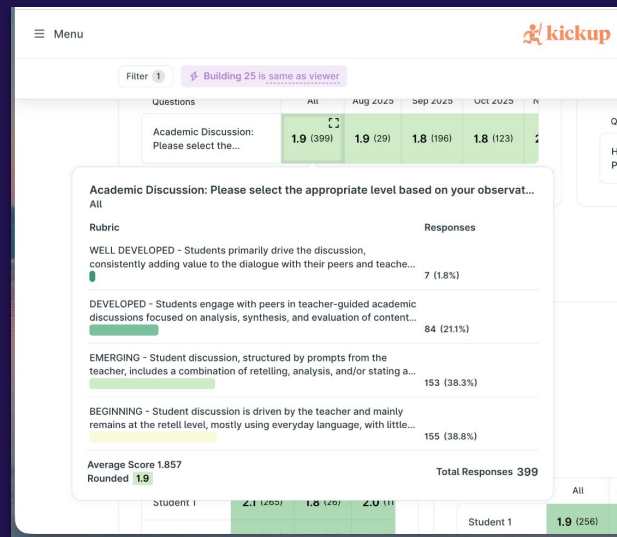
Broad view of the full Impact Framework and classroom environment

- **Learning Walks | Quarterly**

Deeper focus on clarity, discussion, and high-level questioning

- **KickUp | Ongoing [pulse.kickup.co]**

Real-time evidence of coaching, instructional practices, and school improvement implementation



Build a Walkthrough Focus

What are we trying to improve?

1. How will observers collect evidence consistently?
2. Where will the evidence live?
3. How will we analyze trends?
4. How will the evidence change professional learning?

Focus	Evidence	Insight	Impact
Shared look-fors	Consistent observations	Identify trends	Drive improvement

Leadership Moves that Built Coherence

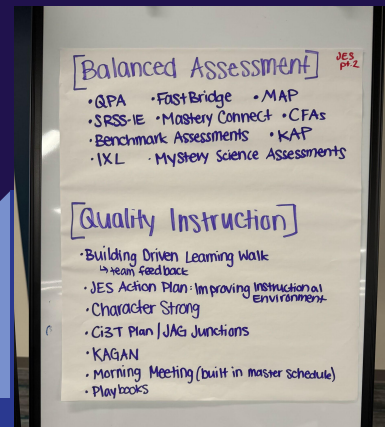
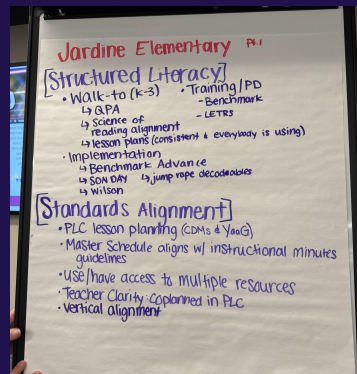
Systems Thinking: Implementation and Impact

- **Shared Indicators**
Common expectations across all schools; site-specific action steps
- **Collective Learning**
All BLTs participate in spring turnaround training; BOE lunch & learn sessions
- **Evidence-Informed Planning**
BLTs examine walkthrough and assessment data

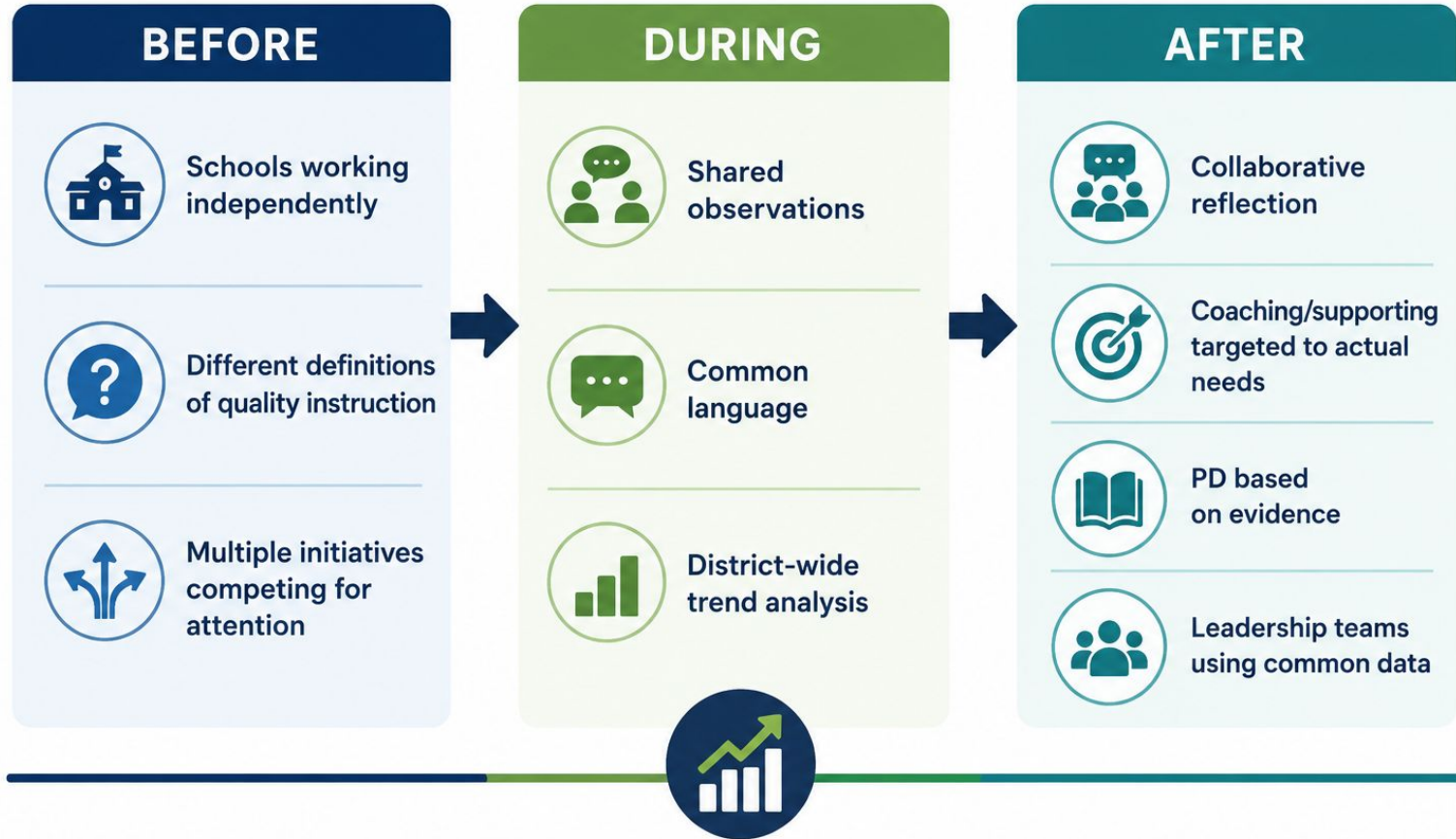
Impact: What's Changed

Coherence→ Clarity→ Collective Efficacy

- Principals report clearer expectations and better alignment between initiatives.
- Teachers understand why changes are happening, not just what do do.
- Shared vocabulary across schools.
- Reduction of “initiative fatigue”



FROM ISOLATED TO IMPACTFUL

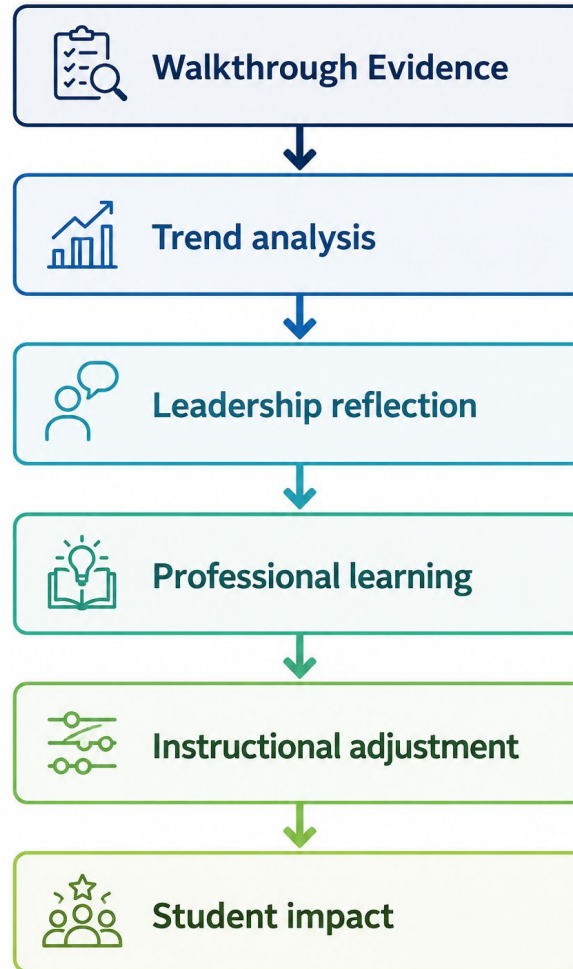


COMMON FOCUS.

STRONGER SYSTEM.

GREATER IMPACT.

Most districts or schools stop at the first step.



Leadership Moves that Matter

1. Don't collect data you won't use.
2. Focus on a few practices deeply.
3. Share trends, not teacher names.
4. Use walkthrough data to design PD.
5. Collaborate with schools.

Impact on Student Growth Measures

We can now connect action to impact.

Schools and classrooms showing significant student growth are consistently implementing identified improvement strategies, as confirmed through strong walkthrough evidence.

Reflection

If you could redesign walkthroughs tomorrow, what is one thing you would stop, start, or strengthen?

Walkthroughs do not improve instruction. Shared focus, collective reflection, and aligned action improve instruction.

What's Next for TPS?

1. Continue using KickUp: Provide feedback & collect and analyze data.
2. New: Administrative cohorts: Visit other schools to engage in learning walks using the same tools.
3. New: Use KickUp for 1) Ci3T Direct Observations, 2) documenting check-ins with Teacher Apprentices 3) New Staff, and 4) Explore building specific walks

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