

Setting the Context for using the *Modified Continuum*

Introduction to the Modified Continuum:

The New England Comprehensive Assistance Center at EDC, Inc has developed a “Modified Continuum” that is aligned to the *Assessment Continuum of Schoolwide Improvement Outcomes*.

This “Modified Continuum” was developed as a result of team and facilitator feedback following the HOPE Institute pilot. Responses on the Institute evaluation indicated that the Continuum was extremely helpful for teams but took longer than was useful given how many other issues teams had to attend to. While the original *Continuum* Short Form was more quickly reviewed than the *Continuum* Long Form, the original Short Form did not fully allow teams to come to understand the critical concepts under each of the 11 Components.

The “Modified Continuum” helps address this by asking teams for more targeted and specific information within each of the 11 Components. We trust that this documentation will both ease administration of the Continuum process and help teams more quickly assess the most salient points within each of the Components.

Using the Modified Continuum with your team:

The Continuum is designed to collect perceptual data and to help frame key areas of research that fall under the School Improvement banner.

The process to use this “Modified Continuum” is suggested as follows:

- 1) In a face-to-face meeting review the *Continuum* tool. Discuss how the *Continuum* can be used with the team and how it can support the team’s work.
- 2) Work to develop a process to provide staff with an opportunity to complete the “Modified Continuum”. In an ideal scenario, staff members would have adequate time to complete the rating tool, publicly (and possibly anonymously) share their ratings, and review/discuss issues that might arise as a result of using this material. Small group discussions could occur around each of the 11 Components to gather data about key issues within each Component area.

Note that the goal here is NOT to come to consensus on the ratings. The goal is to collect information from faculty about their perceptions of where their school falls in each of the 11 Component areas.
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USING THE *CONTINUUM FOR SCHOOLWIDE IMPROVEMENT OUTCOMES*
Gathering perceptual data from your school

Include the following paragraphs from the Continuum Overview:

- 1) The Research Base
- 2) The School as a System
- 3) How to Use this Tool – 2 paragraphs only (up to and not including “the rating scale”)