



Trends in U.S. Teacher
Professional Development and
Collaboration

Kelli Thomas, Ph.D.

University of Kansas

Kelli Thomas, Ph.D.

University of Kansas, School of Education

- Associate Dean for Teacher Education and Undergraduate Studies
- Associate Professor--Curriculum and Teaching, Mathematics Education
- Over 25 years working in and with schools
- K-12th grade classroom teaching experience in the U.S. and Germany
- Worked on grants funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education
- Published work: *Journal of Educational Research, School Science and Mathematics, American Journal of Evaluation, Teacher Education and Practice, Action in Teacher Education, Teaching Children Mathematics*

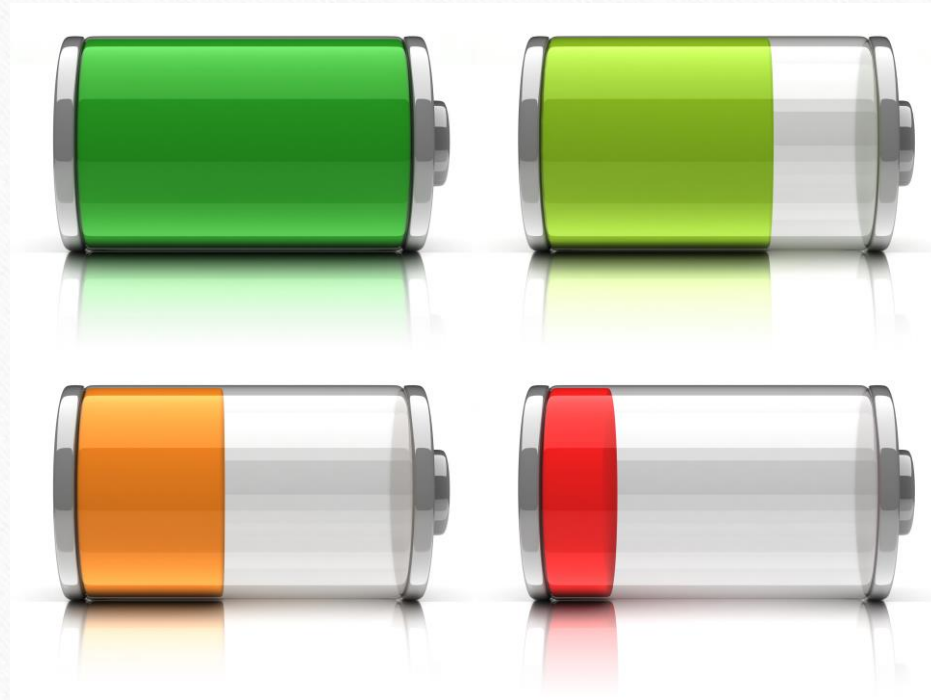
U.S. Teacher Professional Development



U.S. Teacher Professional Development



U.S. Teacher Professional Development



Issues and Trends

- Accountability
- Closing the Achievement Gap
- Student Diversity
- Resources
- Professional Learning Communities
- Teacher-Driven
- Online and Virtual Opportunities
- Teacher Leadership
- Involvement in Evaluation

Issues

What Challenges are U.S. Teachers
Facing?

Accountability

Challenges

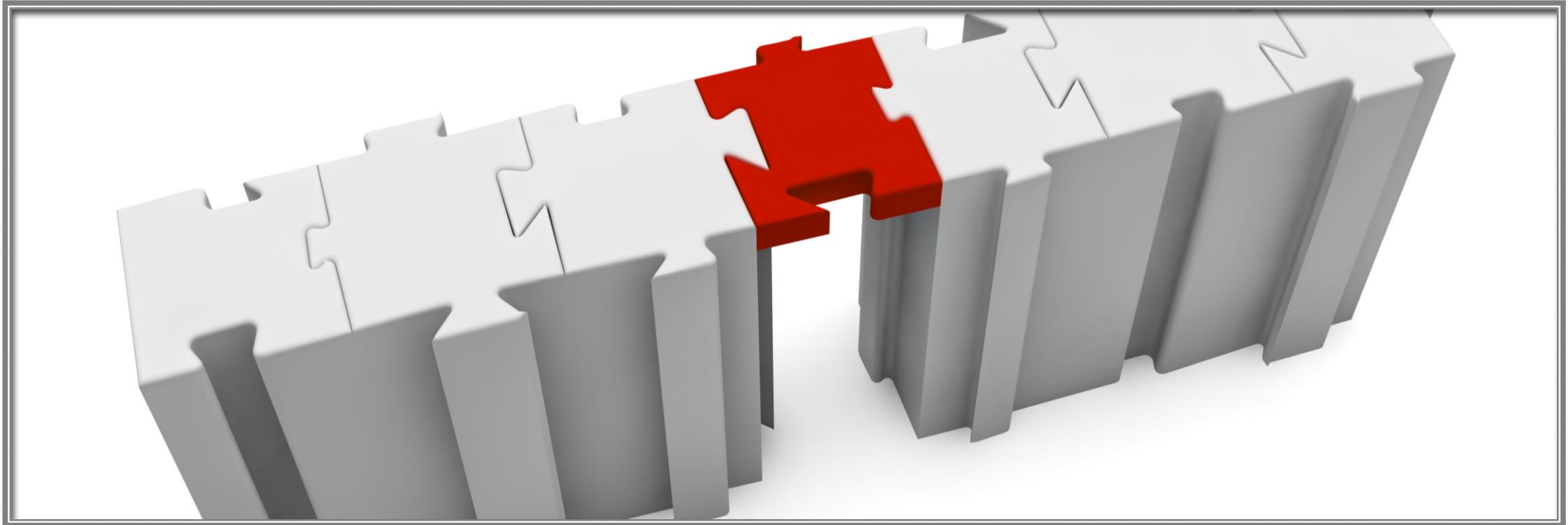
Making Sense of Data

Policy Changes

Changing Standards

Curriculum Changes





Closing the Achievement Gap

Student Diversity

Race

Culture

Gender

Language

Ability



Resources



Trends

Addressing the Issues

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)



- Small Teams of Teachers
- Often Grade Level-Interdisciplinary
- Work Together to Bring Change
- Implemented to Transform and Improve



Online and Virtual Opportunities

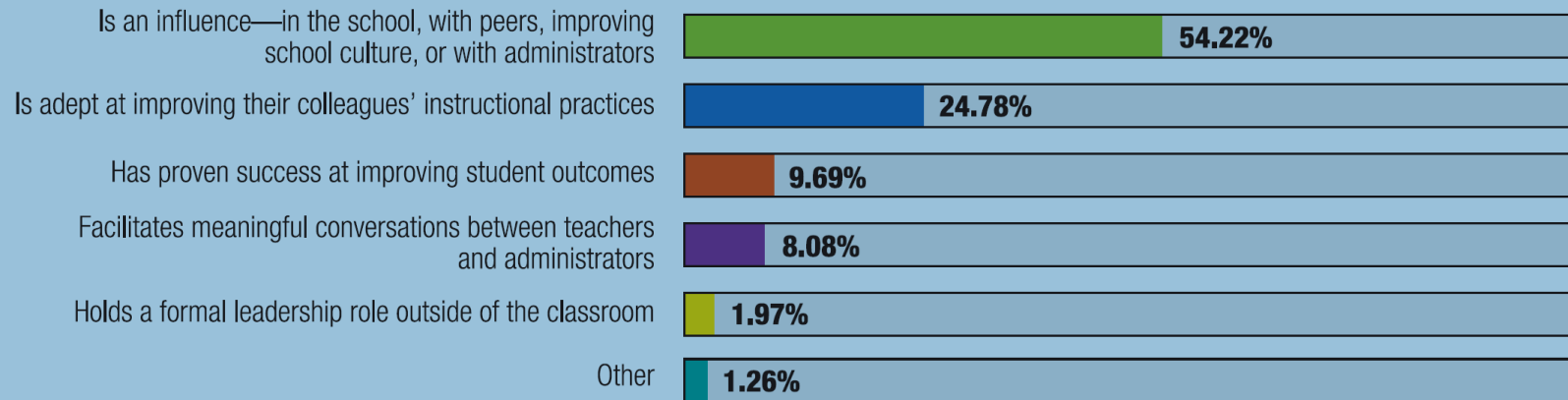
Webinars, Online Course Work, Blogs, Online Communities

Teacher Leadership

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

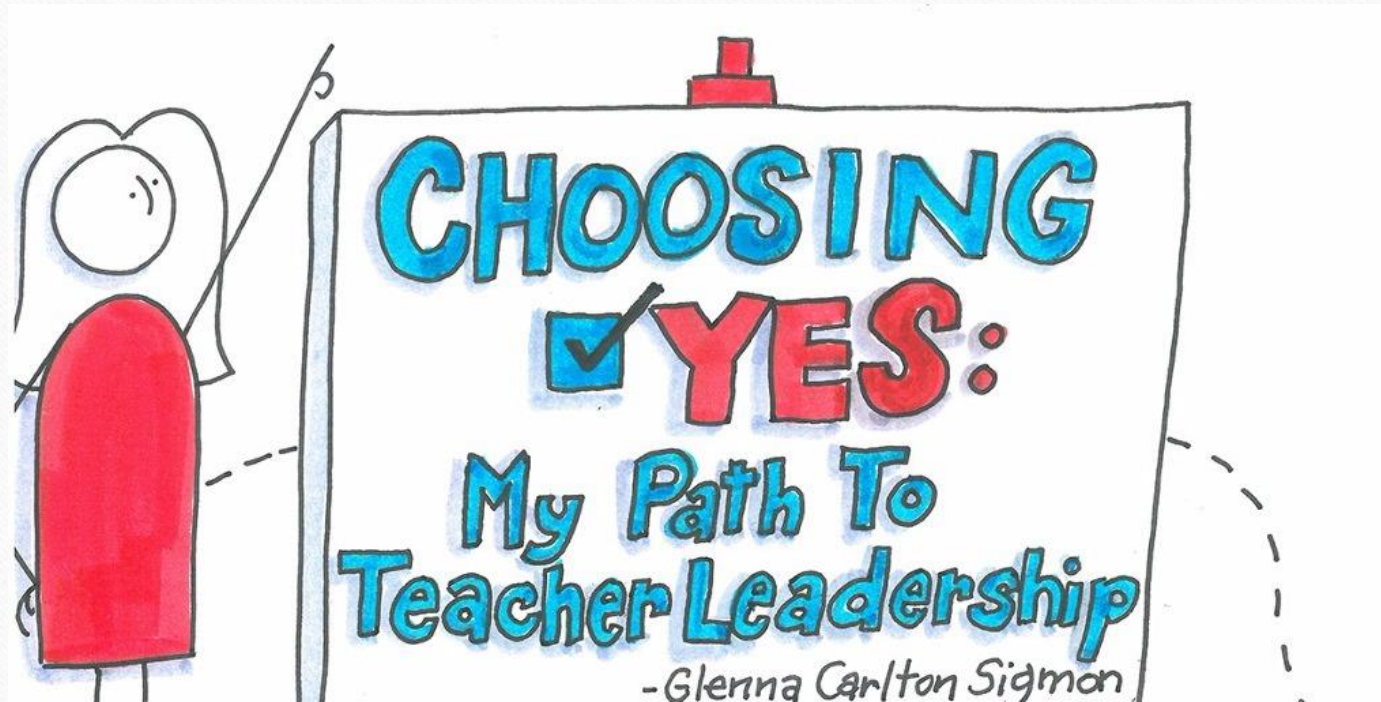
Ed Pulse

Customized Implementation Process (rating)



Teacher Leadership

Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ)



Involvement in Evaluation

Collaborative Evaluation Communities

Powerful bottom-up approach,
rather than a mandate from district
administration



Project funded by the National Science Foundation

Collaborating for Change

What happens when school administrators and teachers come together to solve a problem and improve student learning?



Teacher-Driven

Personalized Professional Learning

Micro-Credentials

Virtual Learning Communities



Key Elements

What have we learned?

Effective
Professional Development

Teacher-Driven

Collaborative and Embedded
in Practice

Takes Time and Money

Utilizes Available Technologies

