



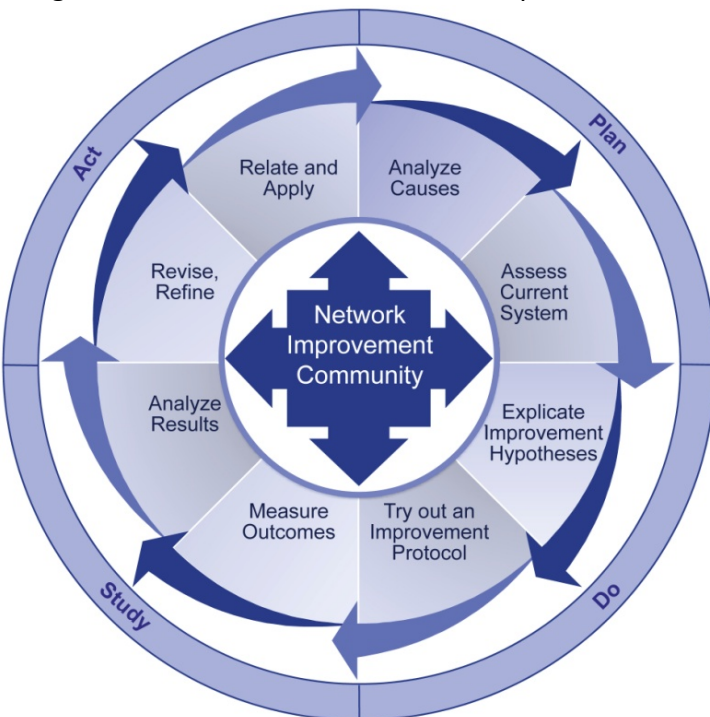
**PLUS ALPHA**  
Research & Consulting, LLC

## Educational Improvement through Research

Our mission is built into our name. “Plus Alpha” is a Japanese idiom that means “added benefit”. In education research, relevance and utility often take a back seat to tradition and rigor. Researchers at Plus Alpha Research & Consulting, LLC are all former policymakers and practitioners in the K-16 education field. Thus, Plus Alpha’s “added benefit” is real-world experience balanced with research expertise. Our hands-on practicality ensures that we design and conduct scientifically rigorous studies with practical relevance to policymakers and practitioners. Plus Alpha’s mission is to improve teaching and learning in education by serving as translators of prior research, designers and leaders of new research, and facilitators of future research and policy.

**Plus Alpha transforms rigorous research findings into actionable steps to improve teaching and learning in K-16 settings.**

Plus Alpha Research and Consulting is an 8(a) certified woman- and minority-owned small business since 2011. For the past five years, Plus Alpha has provided research and evaluation, analytic technical assistance, and organizational development and capacity building services in the area of K-16 education, including for foundations, government agencies, and non-profit developers. We are headquartered in Arlington Virginia, with staff working across the country to serve the needs of educators. We ensure that our clients have the insights needed to make solid leadership decisions based on methodologically sound research.



Plus Alpha is client-centered; we offer adaptable flexibility to meet client needs. We apply a continuous improvement cycle to our work and see our clients as partners in improving teaching and learning outcomes. We **plan** our work by conducting a feasibility analysis and needs assessment that includes creating a logic model to document the current system. We **do** a quick pilot to ground our improvement goals and methods in prior research and practical field experience. In partnership with our clients, we design and implement a rigorous research and evaluation **study** that links back to program and service delivery improvement. We **act** by transforming rigorous research into actionable recommendations. Our research staff brings significant expertise and experience in qualitative and quantitative methods. Our network of skilled and nationally recognized technical advisors assist Plus

Alpha’s research staff and ensure that research results are relevant and applicable to improving real-world student outcomes. Our advisors include federal, state, and local policy makers; SEA and LEA leaders; principals, teachers, and parents; social scientists; and educational technologists.

## Our Services and Expertise

Plus Alpha’s clients include federal, state, and local agencies; foundations; postsecondary institutions; and other research firms. We help our clients use research and data to improve their services to promote student and teaching success. Our work is guided by our methodological and content-based expertise in school improvement and reform, teacher and leader effectiveness, and programs and policies related to disadvantaged students. Our services and expertise include:

### 1. Research and Evaluation Services

In partnership with our clients, we design optimal studies for continual improvement and program development that can be executed with fidelity. We bring rigorous quantitative and qualitative expertise to bear on pressing issues facing our educational system today. As educators and researchers accustomed to working within school systems, we understand the importance of designing and implementing studies that fit with school schedules and connect with school systems to ensure consent and buy-in. We routinely deliver evaluations, feasibility studies, fidelity studies, impact studies, instruments and protocols, literature reviews, reports (e.g., briefs, public, research, evaluation, technical, and state and federal), research syntheses, and study designs (i.e., rigorous and scientific).

### 2. Analytical Technical Assistance Services

Our senior staff members have over 30 years of combined experience providing technical assistance. We place particular emphasis on helping organizations develop their own evaluation capacity so that on-going monitoring and evaluation can be conducted in-house. We also emphasize the use of research and data to improve practice, with a focus not only on being data-driven but on making data-informed decisions. We regularly provide our clients with administrative data analyses (e.g., cost benefit analyses), case studies, compendia, data visualizations (e.g., cluster analyses), policy analyses (e.g., briefs or scans), and technical assistance and professional development trainings (i.e., research to policy and research to practice).

### 3. Organizational Development and Capacity Building Services

Plus Alpha senior staff are extensively trained in proposal and project management. We couple this training with decades of experience managing large-scale proposals and projects. We leverage these skills to deliver capacity building services including communications and dissemination planning, needs assessments (e.g., concept mapping, gap analysis, logic modeling, SWOT Analysis), organizational development training (e.g., business development training), and toolkits (i.e., analytical, instructional). Through these services, we offer an experienced, trustworthy, and objective research partner to our clients.

#### Organizational Information

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