Project Overview

- SMU serves as the backbone for research and evaluation of the WDSS project.

- The project focuses on research to practice, replicable model development, and continuous improvement.

- The project team learns from both successes and failures.

- Alignment of stakeholder goals with community needs is integral at the WDSS.
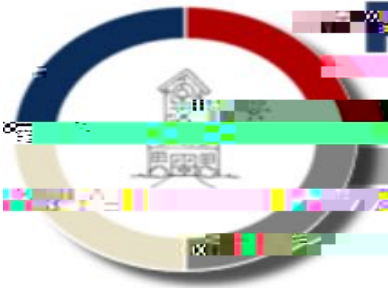
Where We Started | Why West Dallas

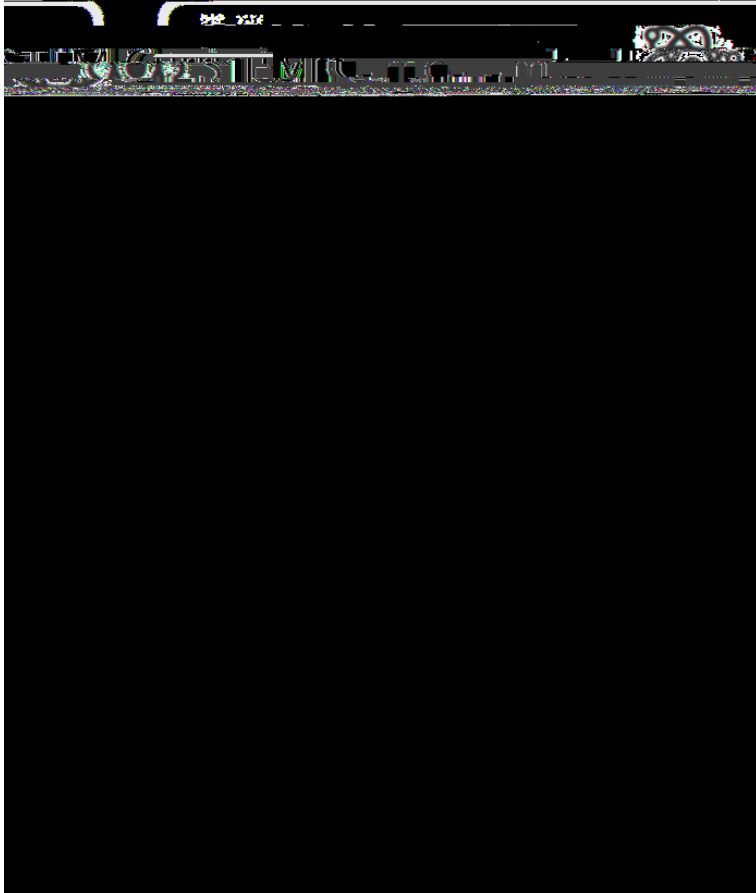**Phase I** — Planning

Phase II — Initial Implementation

Phase III — Full Implementation and Ongoing Improvement

Key Project Components

- Interdisciplinary learning, inquiry- and project-based learning, technology integration, inclusivity and accessibility

- Basic needs, academic support, enrichment, community engagement, adapting to local context and evolving needs

- Cross-team and organizational collaboration, professional development for inquiry, alignment to the WDSS instructional vision

- Generate educational knowledge, link implementation to outcomes, identify implementation driver, iterative improvement

- Collaborative problem solving, testing project components to ensure scalability, efficiency and targeted expertise

SMU

Project Evaluation

- **Focus Area 1:** To what extent is the WDSS model likely to lead to improvement and equity in its outcomes? (Inputs and Activities)

- **Focus Area 2:** To what extent is WDSS making progress toward its enabling and short-range outcomes?

- **Focus Area 3:** To what extent is WDSS making progress toward its mid- and long-range outcomes?

Learning from Success and Failure

- If innovative projects work, replication often remains a challenge.

- If they don't, projects are abandoned without learning from failures.

Successes ( )	Failures ( )
High expectation for all students	Low overall alignment to instructional vision
Connection to prior knowledge	Connecting, Elaborating, and Reflecting was only observed once
Progress in collegial working relationships	Sensemaking is generally lacking

SMU

Continuous Improvement
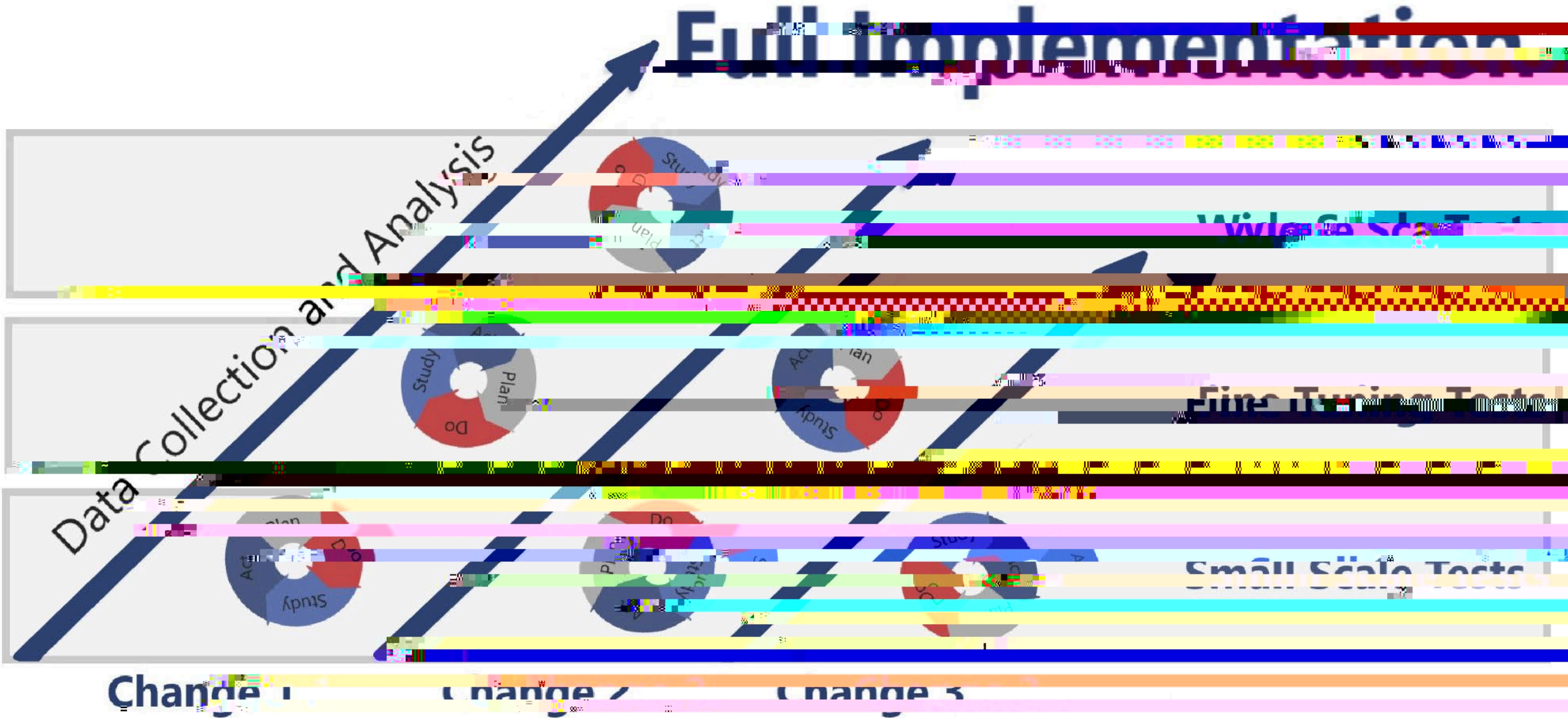
Research Substudies

- Consent processes

- Alignment of research to practice

- Higher education institute and district collaborations

- Contributions to the field of education
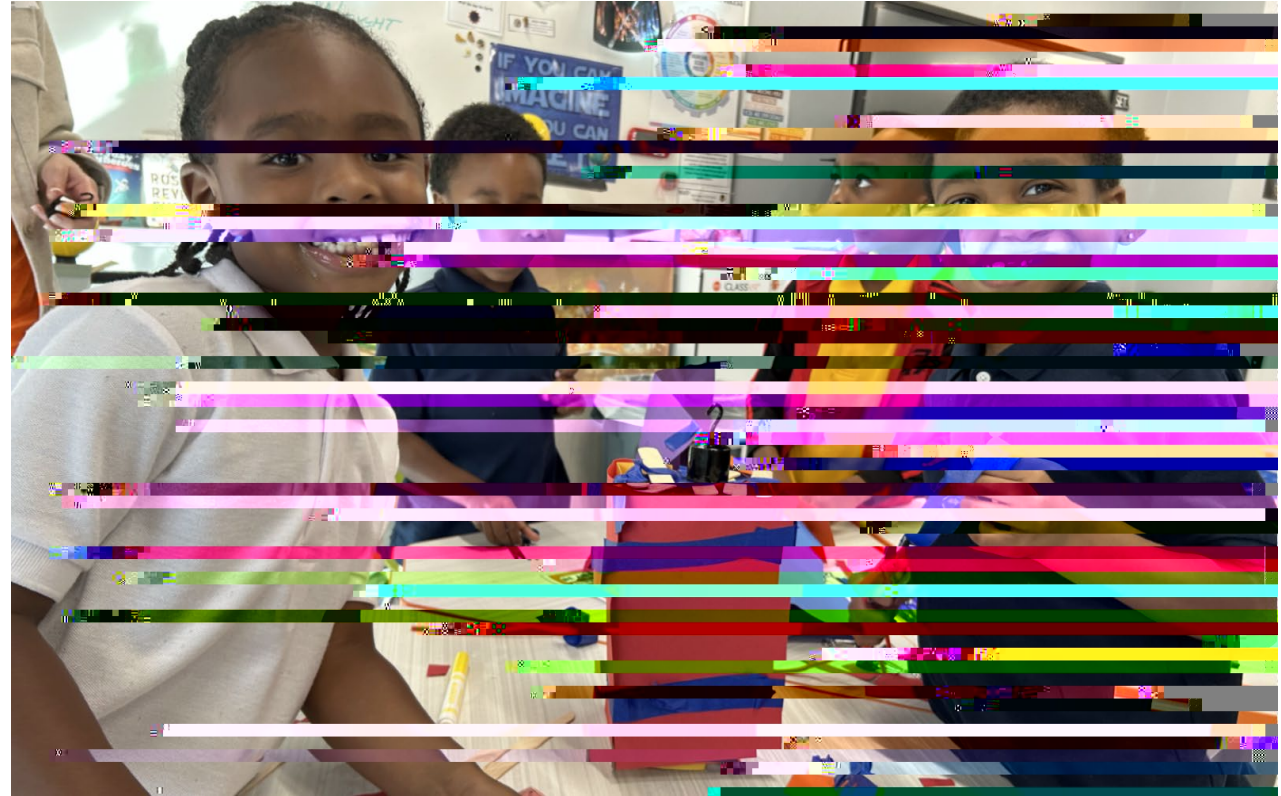
- Action research

Research Substudies

- Student STEM Discourse

- Interactive Physics Simulations

- Science PLC Practices and Efficacy

- STEM Instructional Coaching Analysis

- Research on Integrated STEM Efficacy

- School-University-Community Research

- Operationalizing Professional Development

- Learning Through Gaming Augmented Reality Literacy

Key Takeaways

- SMU's backbone role provides stability and resources.

- The WDSS model focuses on documenting processes and learning from all outcomes.

- Continuous improvement and understanding local contexts are key to success.

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