

# ST. LOUIS SCHOOL RESEARCH PRACTICE COLLABORATIVE

## Research with Schools, for Schools

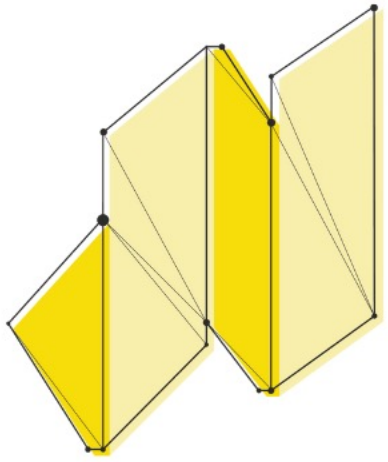
Annual Update to the Saint Louis Public School Board of Education

Presented by Saras Chung, PhD, MSW, Executive Director of SKIP

January 10, 2023

# TODAY'S OBJECTIVES

- 1 Annual Progress Update per MOU
- 2 Things to Celebrate
- 3 Challenges to Address
- 4 Discussion & Feedback



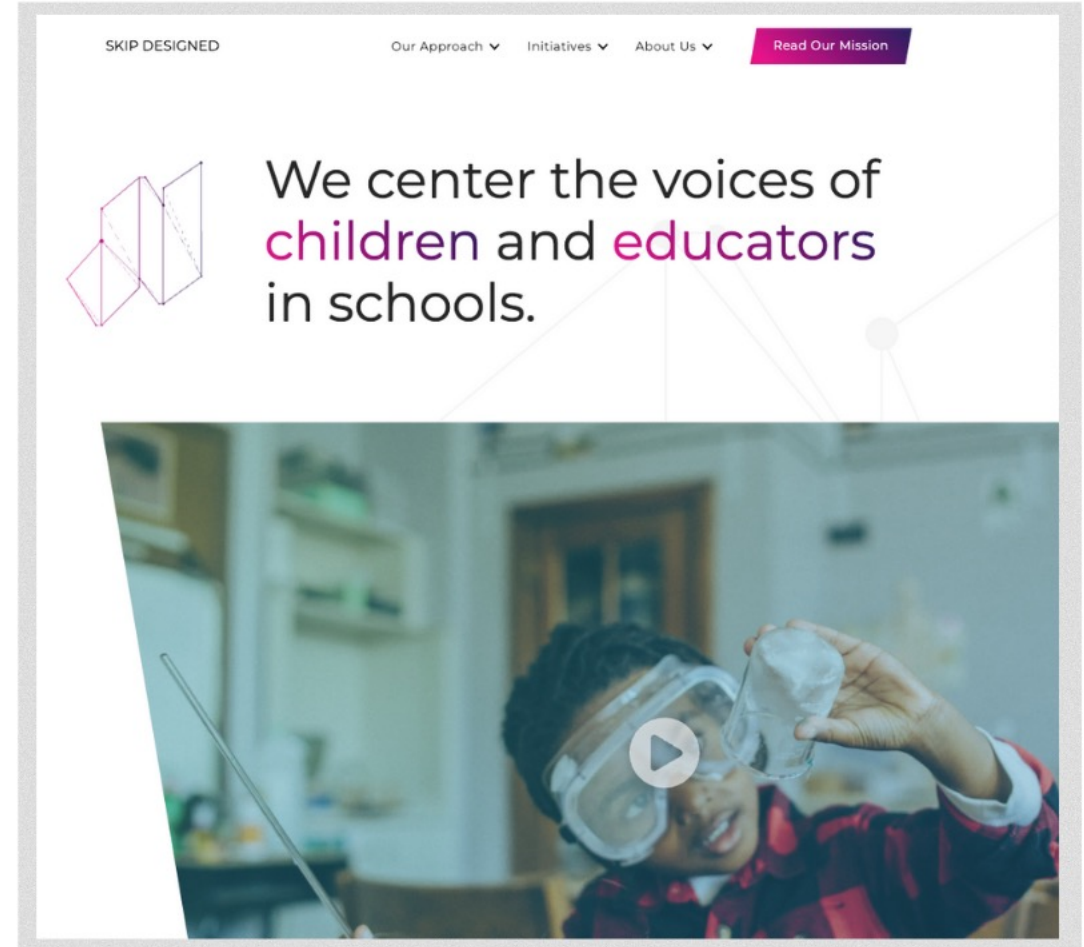
**skip**  
STRATEGIC DESIGN  
FOR COMPLEX SYSTEMS

SKIP Designed is a **community-based think tank** that fosters **systemic solutions** to ensure that all young people in St. Louis have access to great educational opportunities.

**We do this by:**

- + Listening with others to understand an issue
- + Collaboratively identifying options
- + Incubating promising approaches

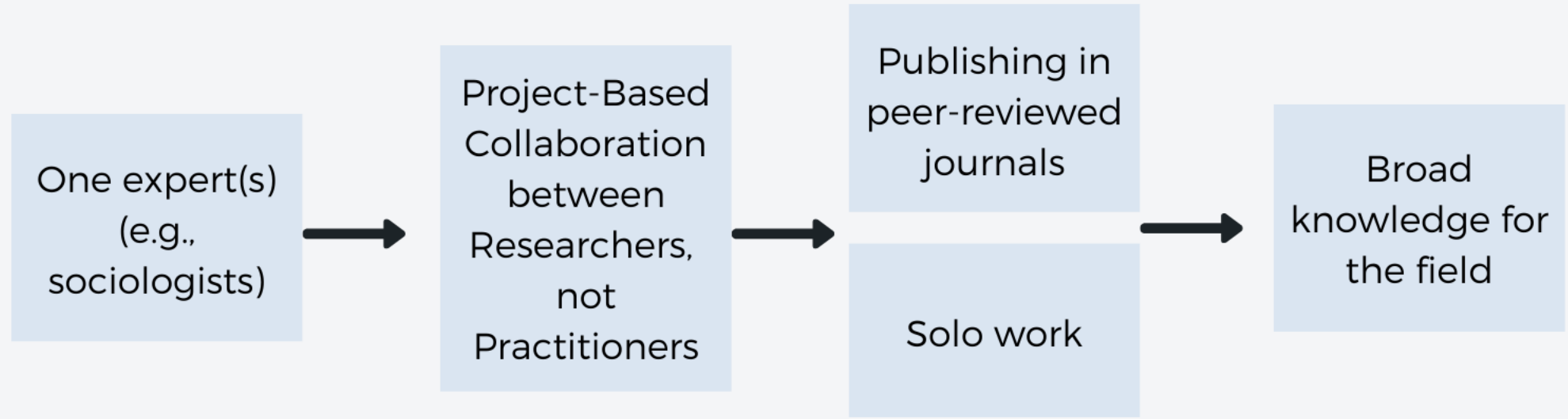
**SKIP is providing interim coordination between schools and researchers pro-bono to the SRPC pilot.**



Learn More about Us: [www.skipdesigned.com](http://www.skipdesigned.com)

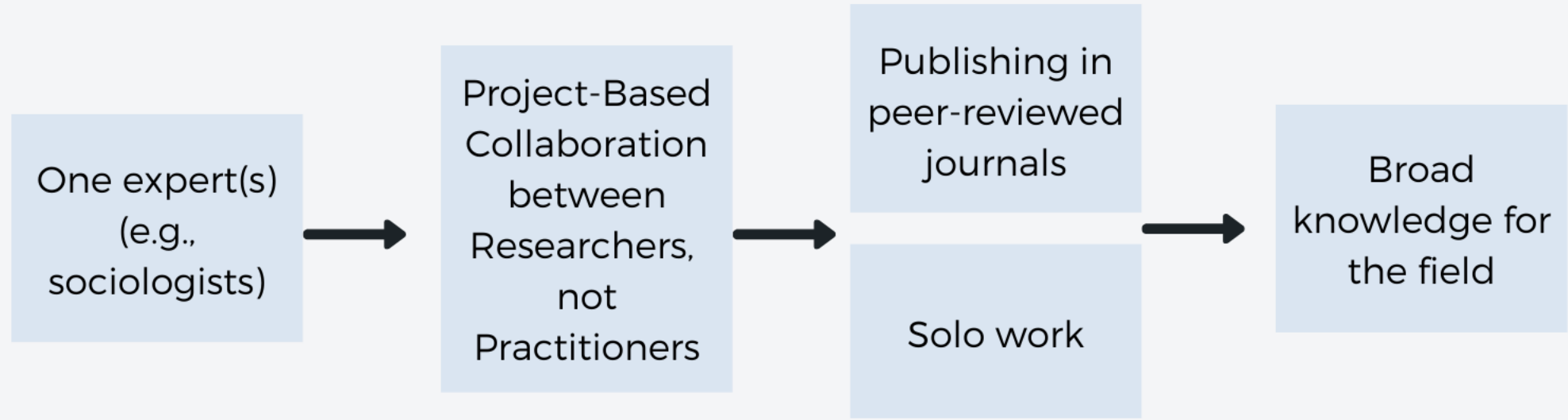
# LOGIC MODEL OF A RPP AND HOW IT DIFFERS FROM TRADITIONAL RESEARCH

## TRADITIONAL RESEARCH



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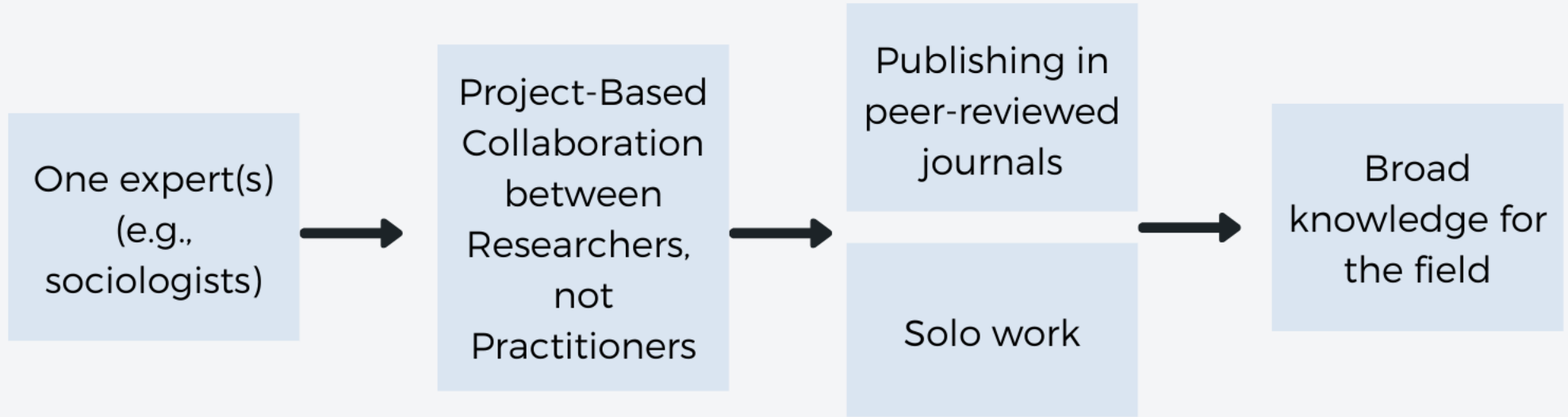
### TRADITIONAL RESEARCH



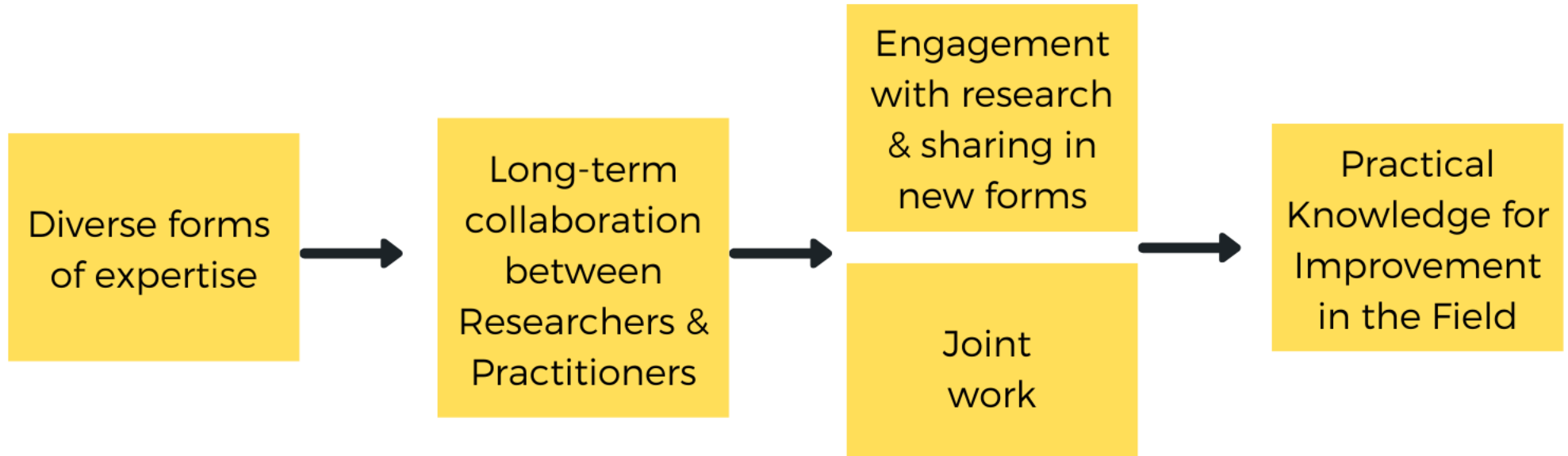
A Research Practice Partnership **acknowledges and addresses the harms that have been done to communities** through research processes that often benefit the researcher and its institutions, but not the people it researches.

# LOGIC MODEL OF A RPP AND HOW IT DIFFERS FROM TRADITIONAL RESEARCH

## TRADITIONAL RESEARCH



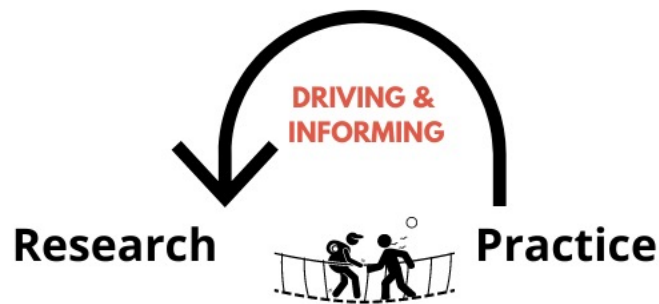
## RESEARCH PRACTICE PARTNERSHIP





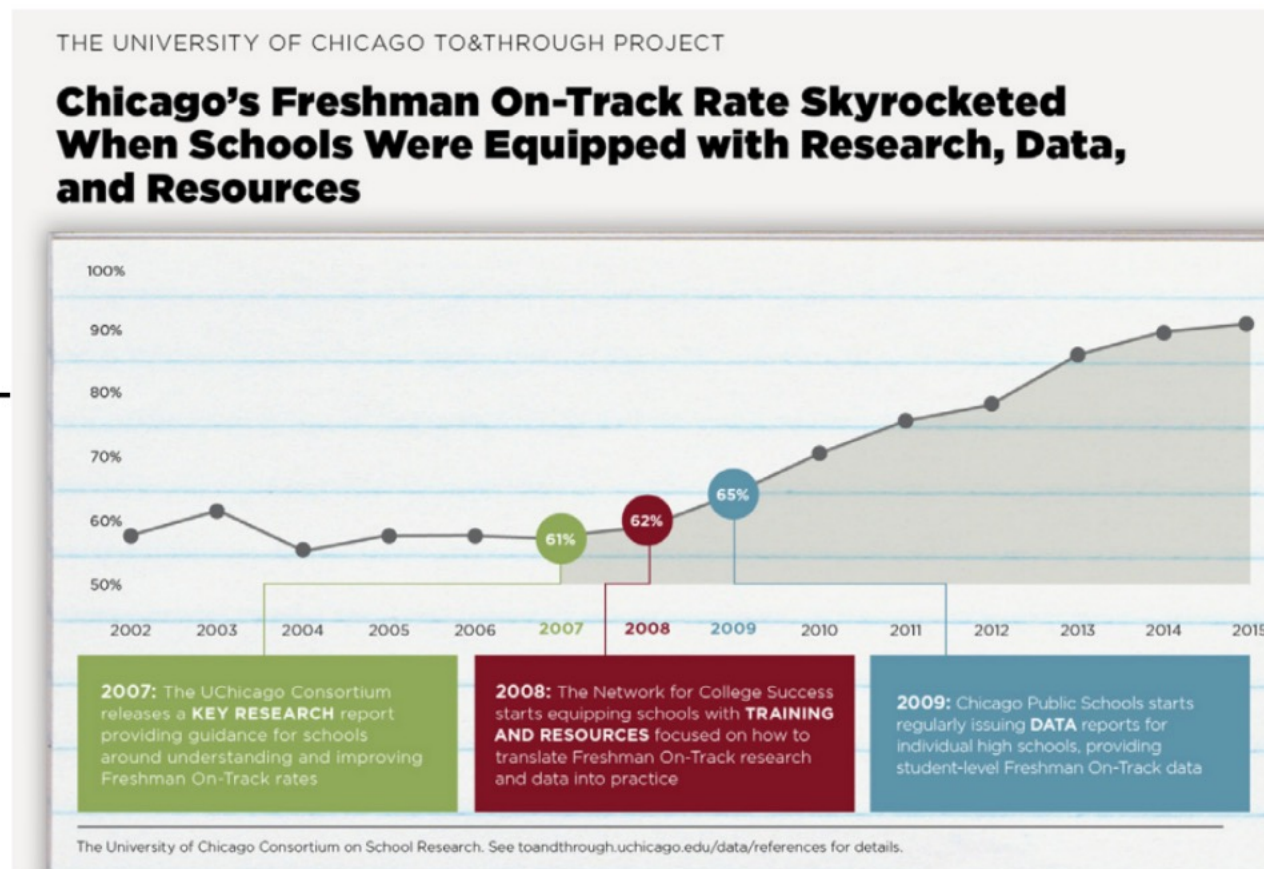
# WHY RESEARCH- PRACTICE PARTNERSHIP

Intentional, formalized **joint efforts** between agencies that primarily administer education and those that primarily research education **to impact decision making in education through the use of research evidence.** (NNERPP, 2023)



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Research can be harmful and exploitative, when used improperly. But when analyzed in partnership with educators, it can provide insights into practice that fosters better outcomes for students.



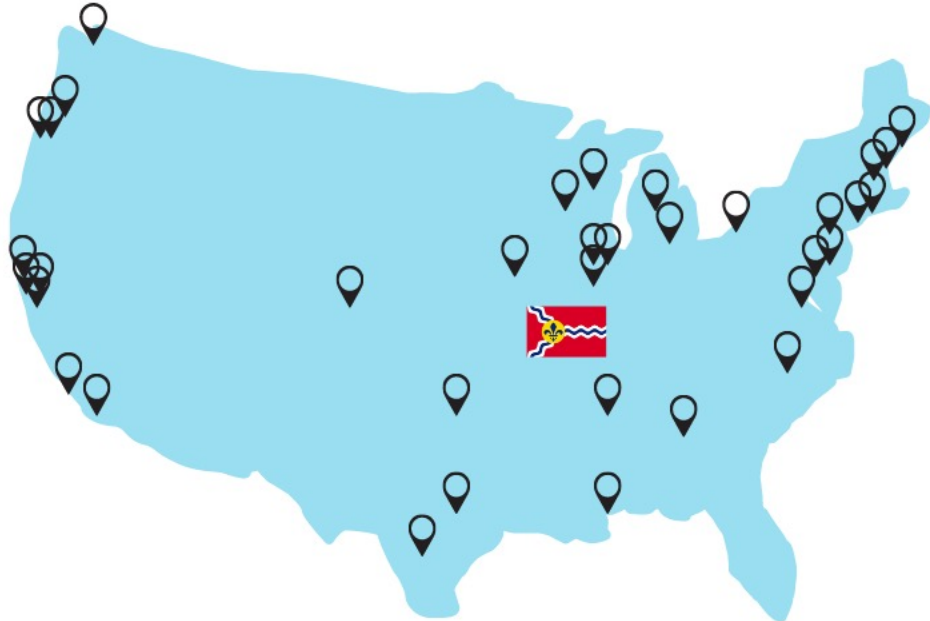
The CCSR partnership with schools brought freshmen on-track to graduation from 57% to 82%. (Roderick et al., 2014)

# STL SCHOOL RESEARCH PRACTICE COLLABORATIVE (SRPC)

CONDUCTING PRACTITIONER-LED RESEARCH FOR STL CITY SCHOOLS

## MISSION

The SRPC's mission is to conduct rigorous research in deep partnership with educators to inform policies and practices that foster systemic improvements in educational, social, and emotional growth for students in STL schools.



THERE ARE OVER 50 EDUCATIONAL RPPS IN THE COUNTRY

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## MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL

TO UNDERSTAND SHARED CHALLENGES IN OUR REGIONS' SCHOOLS



## OUR FUNDERS

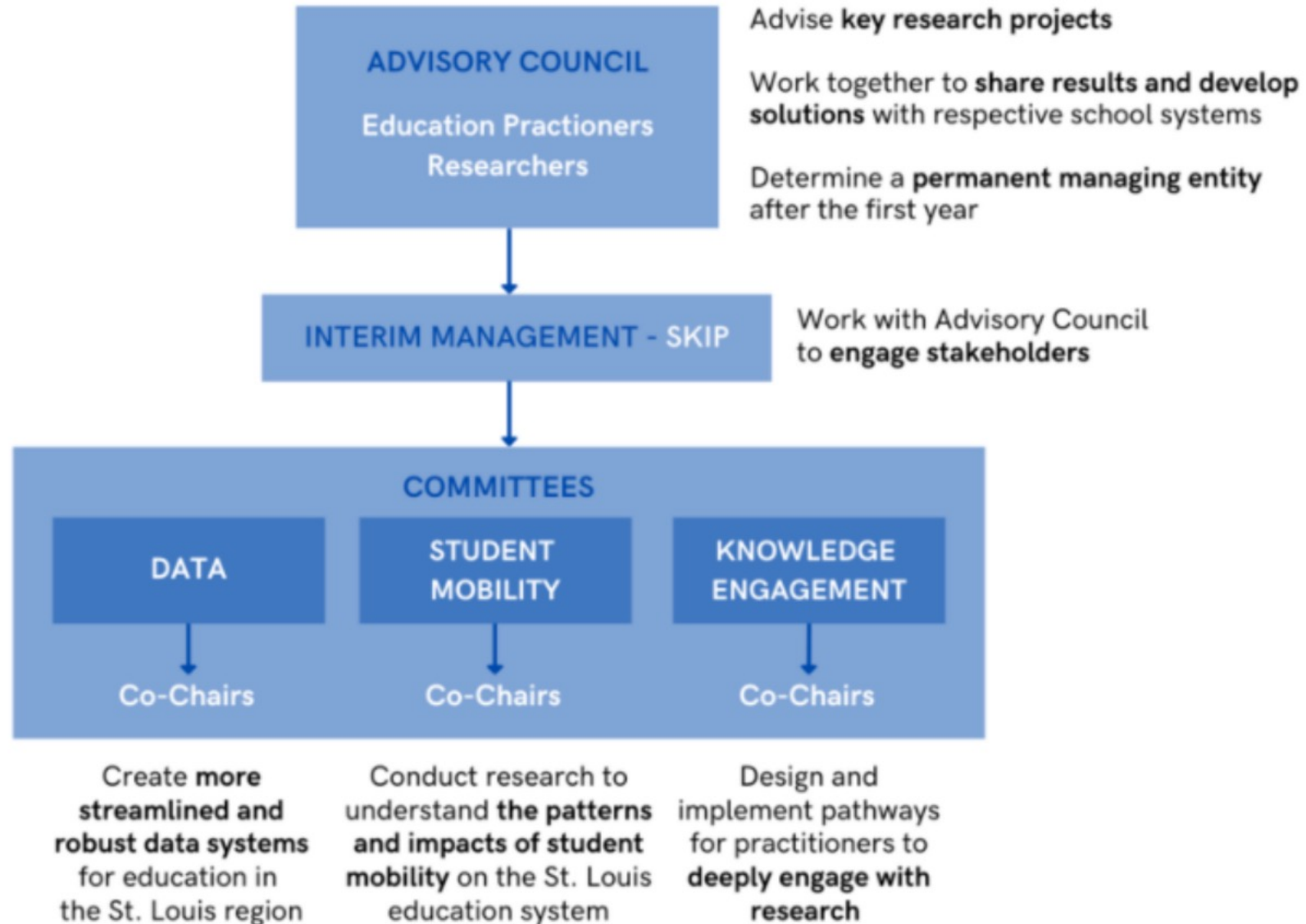
PER MOU, NO FUNDING WITHOUT SLPS BOARD APPROVAL:

James S. McDonnell Foundation (JSMF)

Local STL Family Foundation



# INTERIM STRUCTURE



## STUDENT MOBILITY WAS IDENTIFIED BY EDUCATORS AS A PILOT TOPIC TO STUDY ACROSS ST. LOUIS CITY SCHOOLS



### UNKNOWN REASONS FOR STUDENT MOBILITY

Practitioners need to know the root causes behind student mobility to allocate their time and resources effectively.



### NEGATIVE IMPACTS ON SCHOOL CULTURE

Mobility negatively impacts student social and emotional adjustment and relationship development; students start to feel school is "optional".



### MISSING STUDENT HISTORY

Students sometimes transfer with no transcript or documents detailing what they have learned; teachers may need to arbitrarily assign grades.

# NATIONAL RESEARCH ON STUDENT MOBILITY



**Consistent conclusion:**  
Mobility in **nearly every form is harmful** for student outcomes and this gets worse with every move



Mobility not only harms students who leave, but there's also some evidence of **negative peer effects for students who stay**



Mobility is not only a school issue -> **Moves are both by choice and by policy** (i.e., evictions), with the latter being the most harmful



## QUALITATIVE STUDY

- Why are families moving?
- Why are families staying?
- Best practices to alleviate the effects of mobility?



## SCHOOL-SPECIFIC ANALYSIS

- Detailed look at month by month mobility for individual students & their outcomes in St. Louis schools



## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

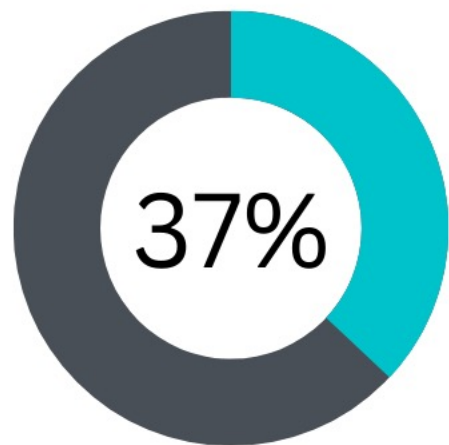
- Patterns of mobility across schools in the city & county across 15 years
- Characteristics & outcomes of student movement



## GEOSPATIAL MAPPING

- Geospatial mapping of movement patterns, census tract patterns, and student-level data

# PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DESCRIPTIVE DATA



In 2019, half of STL City schools had **37% or more** of their students transfer in or out after the start of the school year.

“ *As an educator, my goal is to develop kids over the long term, but that growth has to happen as fast as possible because I don't know how long I'm going to have.*

*--Elementary School Teacher*

”

## SAINT LOUIS RESEARCH- PRACTICE COLLABORATIVE

January 2023



## DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW

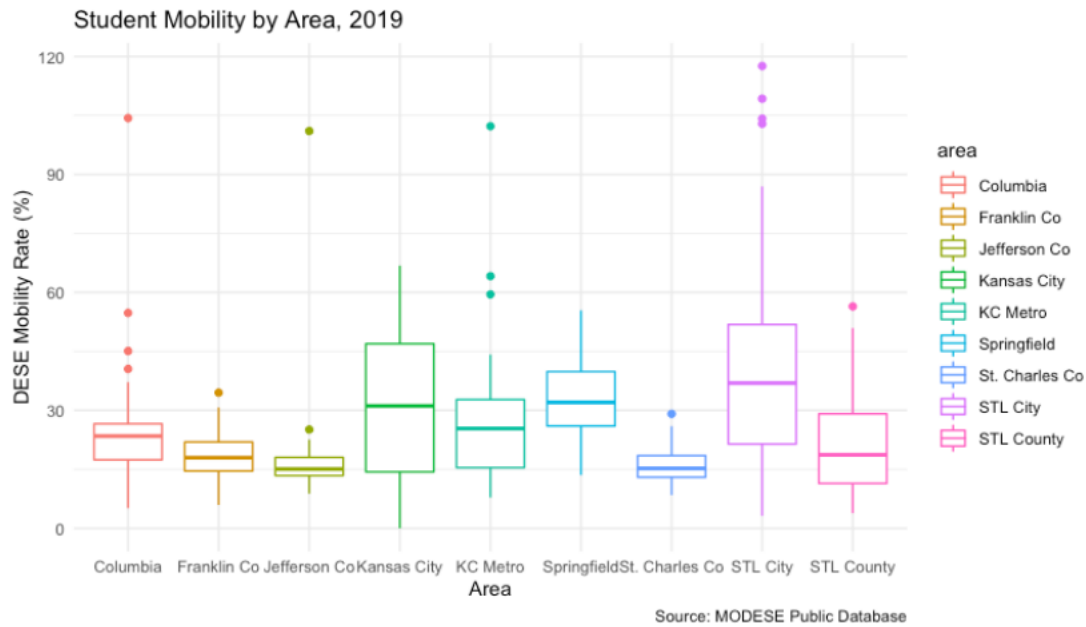
### STUDENT MOBILITY IN SAINT LOUIS

**A Shared Challenge for City Schools**

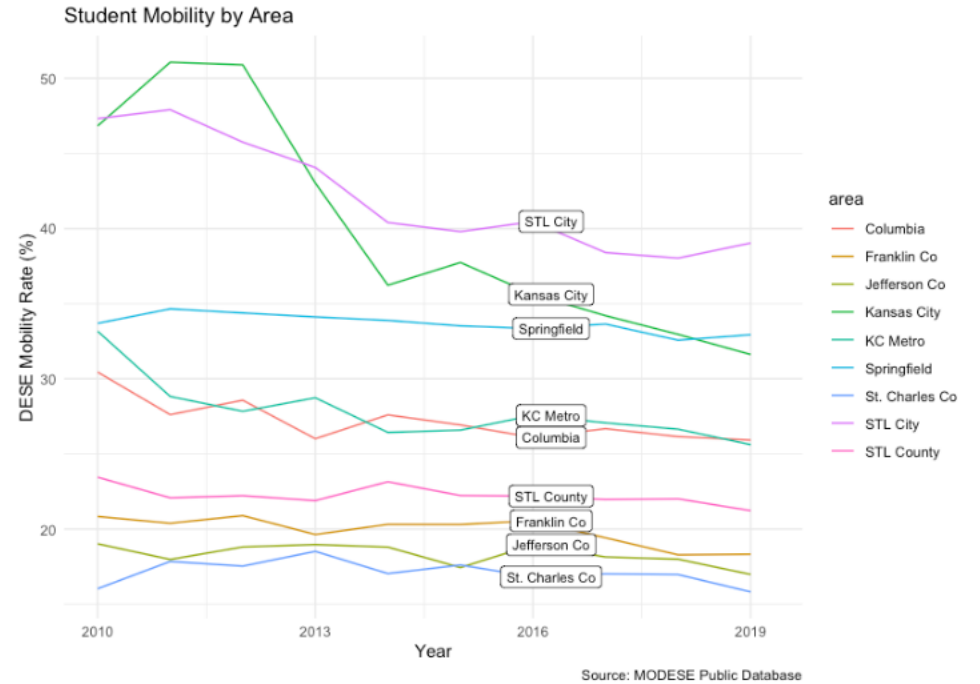
Report Prepared by:  
Evan Rhinesmith, PhD; Saras Chung, PhD, MSW; Summer Jing; Ryan Delaney;  
Dorothy Rohde-Collins; and Rachel Matsumoto



## PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DESCRIPTIVE DATA



Compared to similar-sized cities and surrounding counties, **St. Louis City** had the highest average student mobility rates in 2019.



Though student mobility rates have decreased over time, **STL City** schools have the highest in the state, even when compared to Kansas City.

# ENGAGING IN LEARNING

GOAL: PROVIDING PATHWAYS FOR PRACTITIONERS TO ENGAGE WITH & UTILIZE RESEARCH FINDINGS



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GROUP 4: STUDENT  
IF WE KNEW \_\_\_\_\_, WE COULD \_\_\_\_\_

- THE ACADEMIC IMPACT OF MOBILITY ON STUDENTS
- SHARE / EDUCATE FAMILIES & THE REGION
- CREATE HOLISTIC REGIONAL EFFORT TO ADDRESS THIS
- ALIGN EDUCATION STUDENTS ARE RECEIVING - CONSISTENCY
- EXAMINE POLICIES & PRACTICES THAT HELP IMPEDE MOBILITY
  - ↳ THOUGHTFULLY COUPLE RESPONSE & NEEDS
- GET MORE SPECIFIC - NARROW FOCUS ON TYPES OF MOBILITY
  - ↳ DEFINING CATCHMENT
- PROVIDE EXTRA SUPPORTS @ SCHOOL

WHICH MONTHS STUDENTS WERE TRANSFERRING IN/OUT

15

# NEXT STEPS IN STUDENT MOBILITY

GOAL: UNDERSTANDING PATTERNS, CAUSES, AND CONSEQUENCES OF STUDENT MOBILITY IN STL



## QUALITATIVE STUDY: STUDENTS/FAMILIES

- Delayed due to turnover
- Interviews & surveys begin  
January 2023



## STUDENT-LEVEL LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS

- Received state data in  
December 2022
- Analysis 1 will be done by end  
of spring 2023



## GIS MAPPING

- In progress
- Developing deliverables

# WINS & CHALLENGES



# WINS IN 2022



## DEVELOPING/ MAINTAINING TRUST

- All partners remain committed for the upcoming year to stay engaged & continue working together.
- Responses by members to a survey highlight mutual trust & enthusiasm for the work.

## BRIDGING



Piloting allows us to learn how to work together.

Presentations were given to:

- Confluence Board
- SLPS Legislative Committee
- St. Louis School Leaders Collaborative

## CAPACITY TO ENGAGE



- JSMF Transitional Fellows grant
- Student mobility study is fully funded
- Honorariums secured for practitioners on the student mobility research team

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## SAINT LOUIS RESEARCH- PRACTICE COLLABORATIVE

January 2023



## DESCRIPTIVE OVERVIEW

### STUDENT MOBILITY IN SAINT LOUIS

#### A Shared Challenge for City Schools

Report Prepared by:  
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# CHALLENGES IN 2022



## TIMELINES

MEETING DISTRICT TIMELINES WHILE MAINTAINING DEPTH AND QUALITY OF RESEARCH.

- Delays in developing & fulfilling data sharing agreements
- Institutional procedures must be followed



## CAPACITY TO ENGAGE

DISTRICT PERSONNEL ARE ALREADY STRETCHED  
EDUCATION POLITICS MAY LIMIT ENGAGEMENT  
TURNOVER AFFECTS IMPLEMENTATION.

- Turnover in key members (4 practitioners & 3 researchers)
- Most members are volunteering time and have other full-time roles.

# EXPECTED PROJECT TIMELINE

January 2022

April

July

October

January 2023

Design Research  
Study

Request & Clean  
Data

Family, Student, & Educator Surveys &  
Interviews

Analyze longitudinal  
mobility across the  
region

Share with school  
leaders & SRPC  
members

Support  
engagement in  
learnings &  
intervention design

# EXPECTED PROJECT TIMELINE

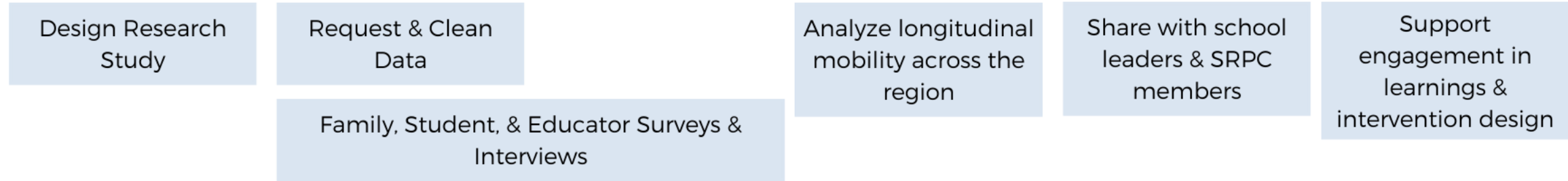
January 2022

April

July

October

January 2023



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# ACTUAL PROJECT TIMELINE

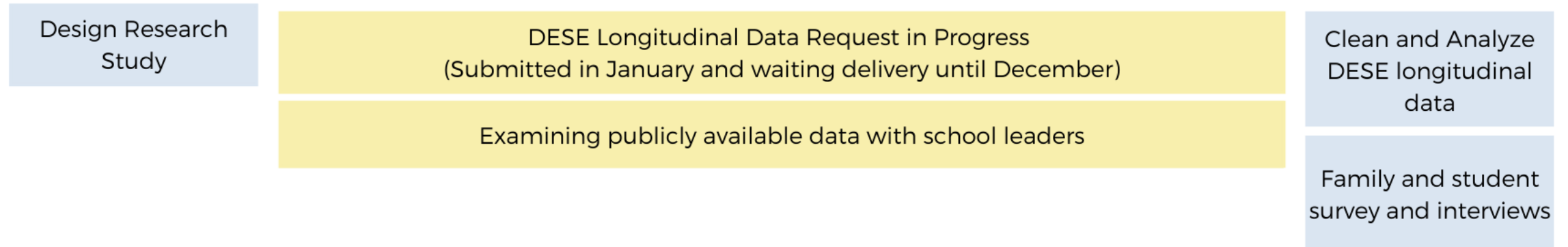
January 2022

April

July

October

January 2023



# LOOKING FORWARD: 2023

# SPRC IN 2023



## COMPLETE THE STUDENT MOBILITY STUDY

Expected to be done this year:

- GIS Work
- Qualitative interviews & surveys completed in late spring or early summer
- First part of quantitative results done late winter, with 2 analyses to follow - done by the end of the year



## SUPPORT RESEARCH APPLICATION

- A team of educators and researchers will work with school leadership to develop a clear pathways for relevant stakeholders to engage in the research.
- The research team will continue to provide support for any school intervention development based on the findings.



## EXPLORE INNOVATIVE DATA STRUCTURES

- New state development plans for the P20W system will be released to the public in January. We will work with the new system & supplement at the local level



## EXPAND THE RESEARCH AGENDA

- SRPC hopes to begin multiple types of studies this year- ones that are long-term and intensive and ones that are short-term & easily answered



## BUILD SUSTAINABILITY

- JSMP Fellows
- Provide more support for school practitioners - fellowships, grants to support admin work, etc.
- Apply for funding



# 2023 SRPC TIMELINE

## January–May 2023

- Complete Analysis 1: Where do people move?
- Conduct interviews and surveys with families, educators and students to understand experiences with mobility
- Co-develop new research questions
- Create plans for local data infrastructure based on state work

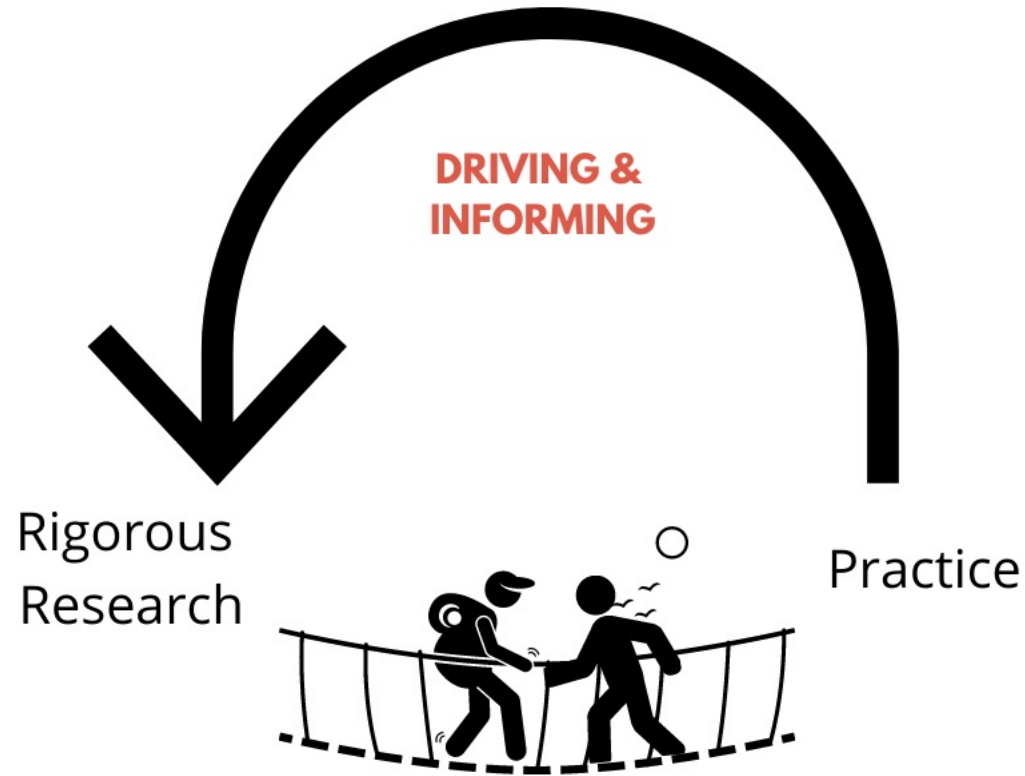
## May–August 2023

- Share qualitative findings with schools & support intervention design
- Complete Analysis 2: Why do people move?
- Support school & public engagement
- Begin IRB processes, data requests, etc. for any new research questions

## September–December 2023

- Translational Postdoctoral Fellows Onboard
- Complete Analysis 3: What are the effects of of moving?

# HOW WILL THIS AFFECT ST. LOUIS CITY STUDENTS?



Knowledge without practice is useless.  
Practice without knowledge is dangerous.

- Confucius

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