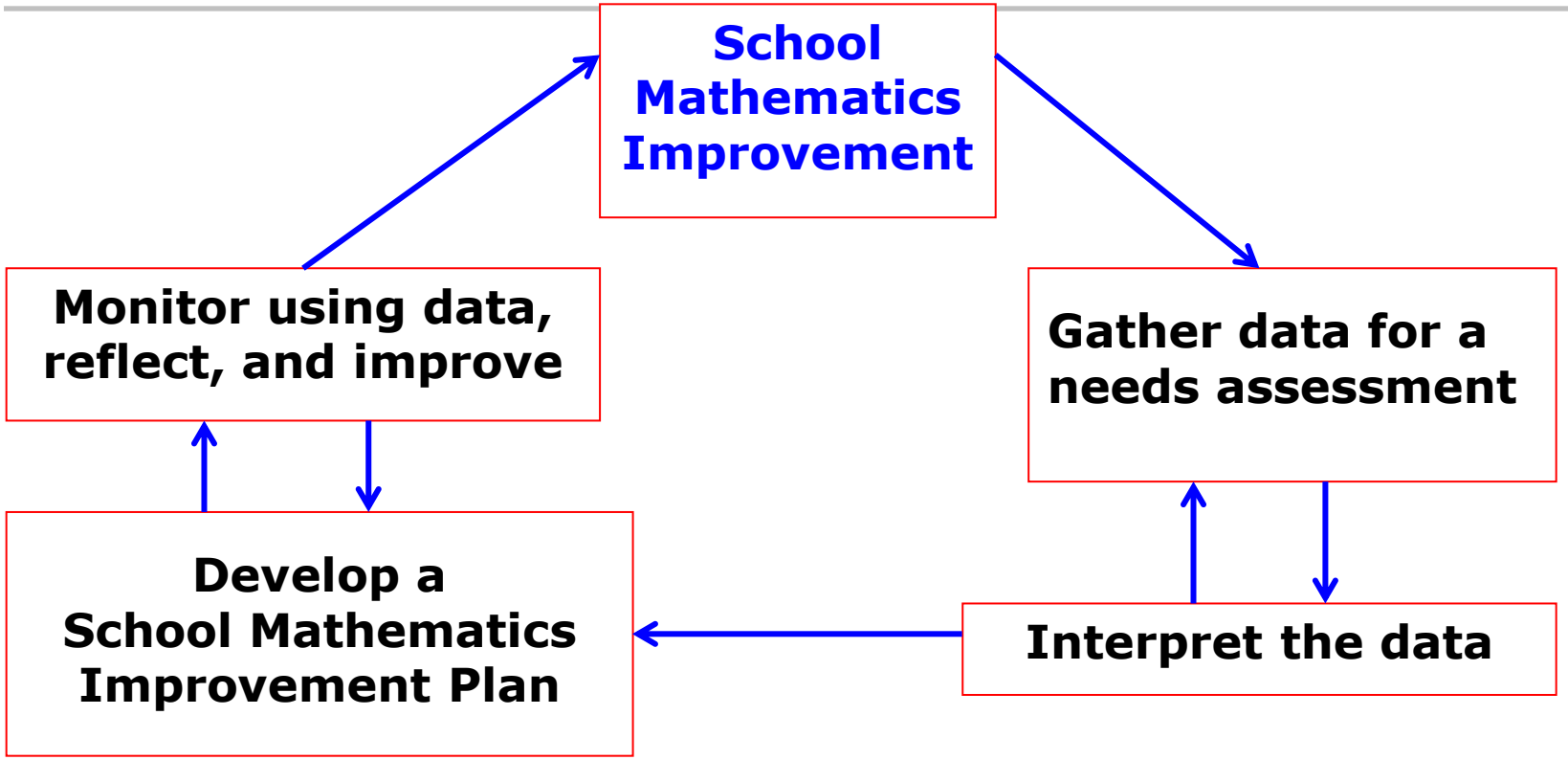
A Model for School Mathematics Improvement

Dr. D. McDougall, 2004

PRIME
PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES AND INSTRUCTION FOR MATHEMATICS EDUCATORS

A Model for School Mathematics Improvement



The Role of School Leaders in School Mathematics Improvement

School leaders play these three key roles in the School Mathematics Improvement process:

- A catalyst for change
- A role model
- A visionary

In your groups, talk about what each role entails.

ACTIVITY

The Role of School Leaders in School Mathematics Improvement

As **a catalyst for change**

- create a environment that enables change
- build a community of learners and collaboration, including staff and parents
- encourage shared leadership – develop leadership capacity
- manage and sustain change

The Role of School Leaders in School Mathematics Improvement

As **a role model**

- "leader as learner" – learn about current theories and teaching practices
- model collaboration
- mentor and promote/model mentorship
- model a positive attitude and patience

The Role of School Leaders in School Mathematics Improvement

As **a visionary**

- create a shared vision
- communicate the vision to the school community
- balance the vision with the realities
- promote and expect a high level of achievement
- maintain the focus

Successes and Challenges in School Mathematics Improvement

"There is a significant challenge for school leaders in dealing with current realities, operating with the way things are, and, at the same time, working towards a vision of the way things should and could be."

- What are some of your successes and challenges with respect to school mathematics improvement in your school?

ACTIVITY

Four Components of School Mathematics Improvement

Using Data	Engaging Commitment
Building a Collaborative Culture	Designing an Action Plan

Four Components of School Mathematics Improvement

Using Data

- Justifies a need for change
- Provides a starting point or a baseline
- Provides a direction or focus
- Used to measure and monitor progress
- Used to demonstrate and celebrate progress
- Adds credibility and builds confidence

Four Components of School Mathematics Improvement

Engaging Commitment

- A key factor for success
- Encourages everyone involved to take ownership
- Includes parents
- Using data will help engage commitment
- Realistic goals will help engage commitment

Four Components of School Mathematics Improvement

Building a Collaborative Culture

- Working together to share expertise and leadership responsibilities
- Collaborative activities include: setting goals, writing an action plan, sharing resources, and meetings
- A collaborative culture takes time and trust

Four Components of School Mathematics Improvement

Designing an Action Plan

- Set specific and measurable goals along with time lines and checkpoints
- Take action
- Monitor, reflect, and improve; modify or shift the focus to maintain growth
- Celebrate successes