

1.2.33 Methodology and Use of Early Warning Systems:

Setting the Context

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Historically, Early Warning= At Risk

Social Disadvantage (Deficit Perspective)

- Low Socio-Economic Status
- Minority
- Gender (some areas—e.g., math)

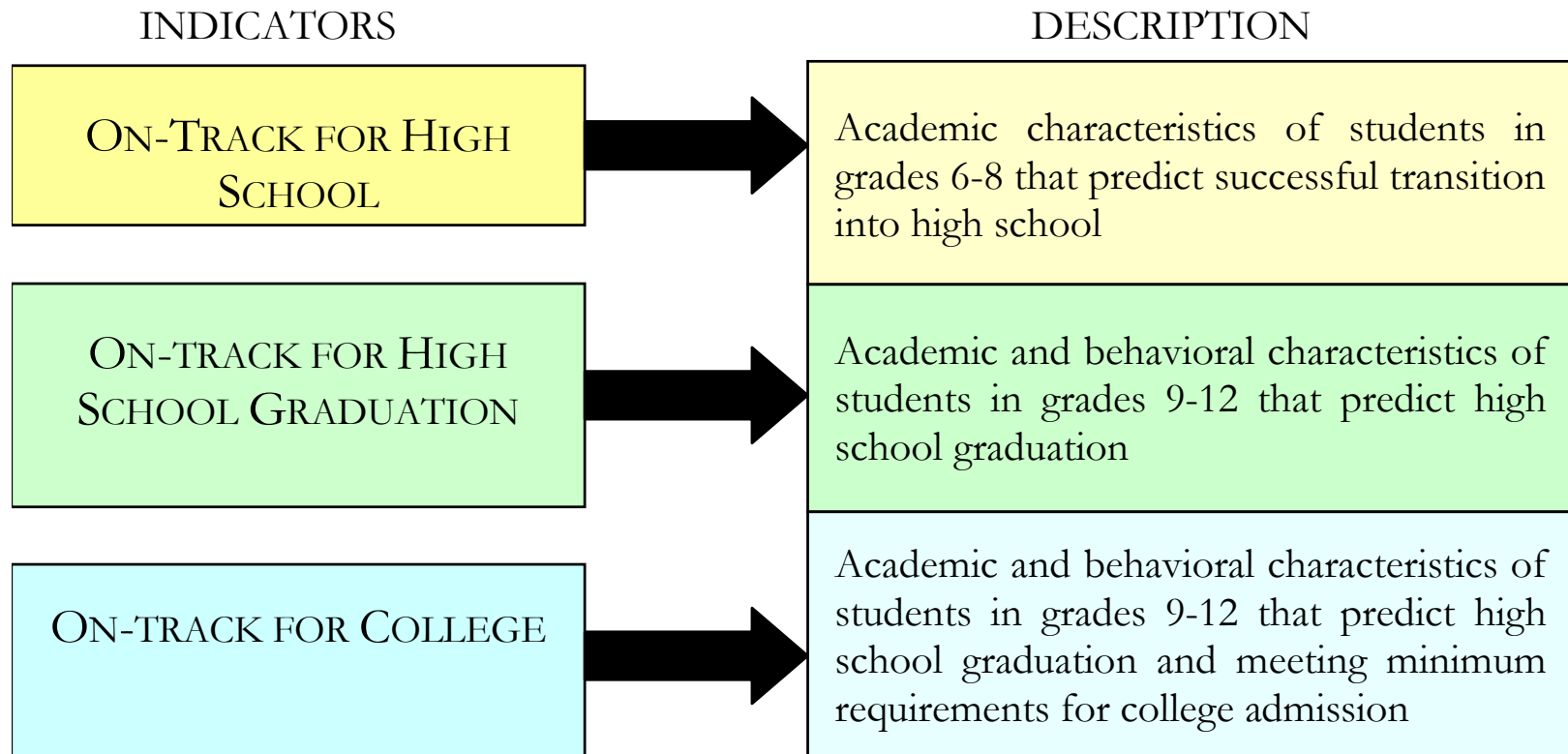
Educational Opportunity (Organizational Perspective)

- School Structure, Size, Human & Fiscal Resources
- School Demographics
- School Organization—relationships, course offerings, etc.

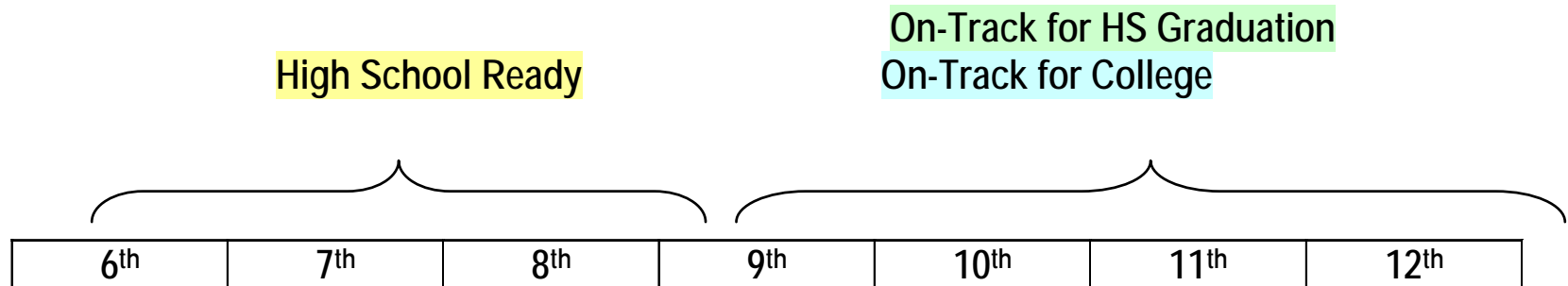
Shift to Academic Behaviors

- Focus on High School Dropout/Graduation
 - Can't Ignore Academic History
- Research in Chicago & Philadelphia
 - Identified academic behaviors and predictive power
- School personnel can identify and intervene
- Data Availability

Example: Types of Indicators



Example: Types of Indicators, Cont'd



- Variables that measure academic behaviors
AND
- “Trigger” or variable value that predicts well later success

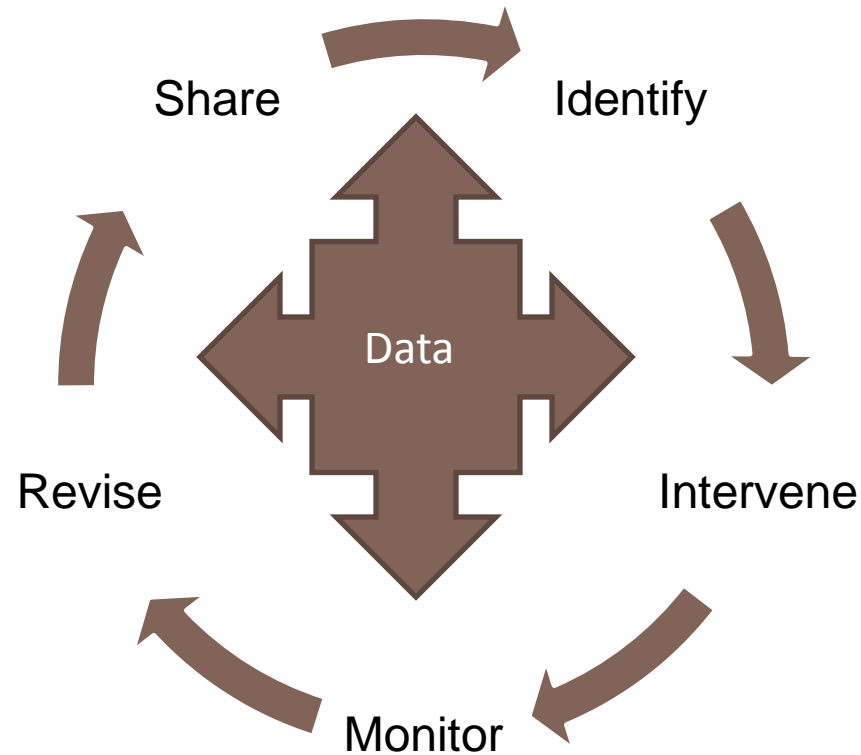
Examples: Texas

Indicator	Variables
High School Ready	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance• GPA• Grade retention/Overage• # Course failures• Test scores (i.e., TAKS)
On-track for High School Graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance• GPA• Credits earned/grade retention
On-track for College	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• # Credits earned• Courses taken and when taken• Grades by course• Test scores (i.e., TAKS)

Indicators' Appeal: Sticky Ideas

- **Simple:** e.g., Miss a lot of school and likely to be in trouble
- **Unexpected:** Simplicity is lacking in education, based on academic rather than social characteristics
- **Concrete:** Easily attainable information, simple combination of measures
- **Credible:** To do well in school, need to be there and pass classes
- **Emotional:** Can observe and intervene, problem is not insurmountable
- **Stories:** Allensworth & Easton, Roderick, Neild, Balfanz

Early Warning Signals in Use



Growing Use

- IES Dropout Prevention Guide:
Recommendation 1. Utilize data systems that support a realistic diagnosis of the number of students who drop out and that help identify individual students at high risk of dropping out (diagnostic)
- From Alaska to New York and in between (see Evidence-based Education Request Report included in materials)

Points to Consider: Creation & Use Require Thought & Attention

- Data Quality
- Local Policies
- Analytic Approach (replication versus predictive modeling)
- Sub-group populations
- Use