ABOUT STRIVETOGETHER
StriveTogether is a national movement with a clear purpose: help every child succeed in school and in life from cradle to career, regardless of race, zip code or circumstance. In partnership with nearly 70 communities across the country, StriveTogether provides resources, best practices and processes to give every child every chance for success. The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches 13.7 million students and has partners in 29 states and Washington, D.C.

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The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network is guided by the Theory of Action™. Based on lessons from Network members, the Theory of Action™ helps communities build and sustain cradle-to-career civic infrastructure. The Theory of Action™ consists of six gateways: exploring, emerging, sustaining, systems change, proof point and systems transformation. Within each of the gateways are a series of quality benchmarks that are key to developing and sustaining a partnership. Meeting the quality benchmarks in the first five gateways puts a community on a path to systems transformation and improved economic mobility.

The Four Principles
Partnerships implementing the Theory of Action™ effectively demonstrate four principles as they move from building a partnership to impacting outcomes:

**ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY**
The work of partnerships must be grounded in the context of the community. Partnerships engage a broad array of community voices through building awareness and information sharing; involving and mobilizing the community toward improvement; and co-developing solutions and strategies with community members.

**ADVANCE EQUITY**
Systemic inequities and opportunities are defined by each partnership using local data and context. A combination of qualitative and quantitative data is used to highlight inequities to shift mental models, change power dynamics and establish more equitable policies in the community. Partnerships ultimately work to eliminate disparities in achievement and change systems to advance more equitable opportunities.

**DEVELOP A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**
Partnerships use local data, community expertise and intentional research to identify areas for improvement in a constant and disciplined manner that ensures that partners invest in practices that work.

**LEVERAGE EXISTING RESOURCES**
Partnerships build on existing resources in the community and align them to maximize impact.

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**Theory of Action™**
Getting better results for every child, cradle to career

**PILLAR:**
Shared community vision

A cross-sector partnership with a defined geographic scope organizes around a cradle-to-career vision.

**PILLAR:**
Evidence-based decision making

A cross-sector leadership table is convened with a documented accountability structure.

**PILLAR:**
Collaborative action

The partnership selects community-level outcomes and core indicators to be held accountable for improving.

**PILLAR:**
Investment & sustainability

A backbone is established and capacity to support the daily management of the partnership is in place.

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**GATEWAYS**

**EXPLORING**

The partnership operates in alignment with the accountability structure.

**EMERGING**

The partnership collects and disaggregates baseline data by key demographic groups for core indicators and regularly shares data with partners.

**SUSTAINING**

The partnership facilitates the collection and connection of academic data across the cradle-to-career pipeline and among partners to enable continuous improvement.

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**SYSTEMS CHANGE**

**PROOF POINT:**

- Organizations, institutions and community partners align their work to support the cradle-to-career vision
- Partners effectively communicate in ways that demonstrate shared accountability for results and build community engagement

**SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION**

- Multiple sectors have aligned efforts in pursuit of economic mobility
- Public and private funding is aligned to strategies that advance equitable outcomes, and/or positive policy changes occur along multiple points on the cradle-to-career continuum

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**GATEWAY TO SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION**

**EMERGING**

- Four core indicators of the seven cradle-to-career outcomes are improving
- Four disparity gaps of the seven cradle-to-career outcomes are reduced or eliminated

**TRANSFORMATION:**

- Cross-sector partners implement concurrent strategies to advance better, more equitable outcomes
- The community organizes mobilization efforts to influence practices and policies necessary to improve outcomes

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**PROOF POINT:**

- Partnership meets four benchmarks in the systems change gateway across four pillars
- Four core indicators of the seven cradle-to-career outcomes are maintained or improved

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**ONGOING:**

- Real-time data, disaggregated by race, gender and economic status, is shared across sectors in pursuit of better, more equitable results
- One adjacent sector outcome for families, youth or community residents is improving