



DISCUSSION GUIDE

The following discussion questions are designed to engage school leaders and their staff. However, we want to welcome parents, community organizers, students, and others who care about our schools (and the students in them) to participate by tailoring these questions to fit their discussion groups.

1. What are your initial reactions to Cornelius' story?
 - a. Was this a familiar story? Were there any parts that surprised you?
2. Were there any pivotal points in Cornelius' journey where his trajectory could have been altered? What would it have taken to make this happen?
 - a. For example, what do you think about the art teacher's actions? What opportunities did she have? How about his middle school principal?
 - b. What would you have done to try and help Cornelius?
3. What behaviors or other trends are signals that a student is struggling or beginning to disengage from school?
4. What is your experience responding to students who are struggling? What have you done to try to re-engage them?
 - a. Were there times when your interventions were effective? What was different from the times when your interventions were ineffective?
5. What kinds of supports do struggling students need? What processes are in place at your school to identify struggling students and ensure that supports reach the students who need them?
 - a. What resources would help your school more effectively reach struggling students like Cornelius?
6. How are students and their caregivers, if at all, included in decisions and planning related to their academic performance and success?
7. What are some intervention strategies or supports your school could implement to re-engage and support students?