School Improvement Research Partnership
Using Logic Modeling for Statewide School Improvement Efforts

Handout 7: Key Terms

Assumptions   The beliefs we have about the program and the people involved, and the way we think the program will work.

External Factors   The environmental factors that influence a program's success. External factors may affect program implementation, participants and receipt of activities, the speed and degree to which change occurs, and staffing patterns or resources available.

Inputs   The resources and contributions that you and others make to the effort. These include time, people (staff, volunteers), money, materials, equipment, partnerships, research base, technology, etc.

Logic Model   A graphical depiction of the logical relationship among the resources, activities, and outcomes of a program, where a series of if-then statements connect the components.

Activities/Outputs   Activities are the processes, actions, and events that are undertaken, using the program resources, to achieve intended outcomes. Outputs are tangible and often process-oriented.

Outcomes   The direct results or benefits for individuals, families, groups, communities, organizations, or systems. Outcomes can be **short-term**, **medium-term**, or **longer-term** achievements. Outcomes may be positive, negative, neutral, intended, or unintended.