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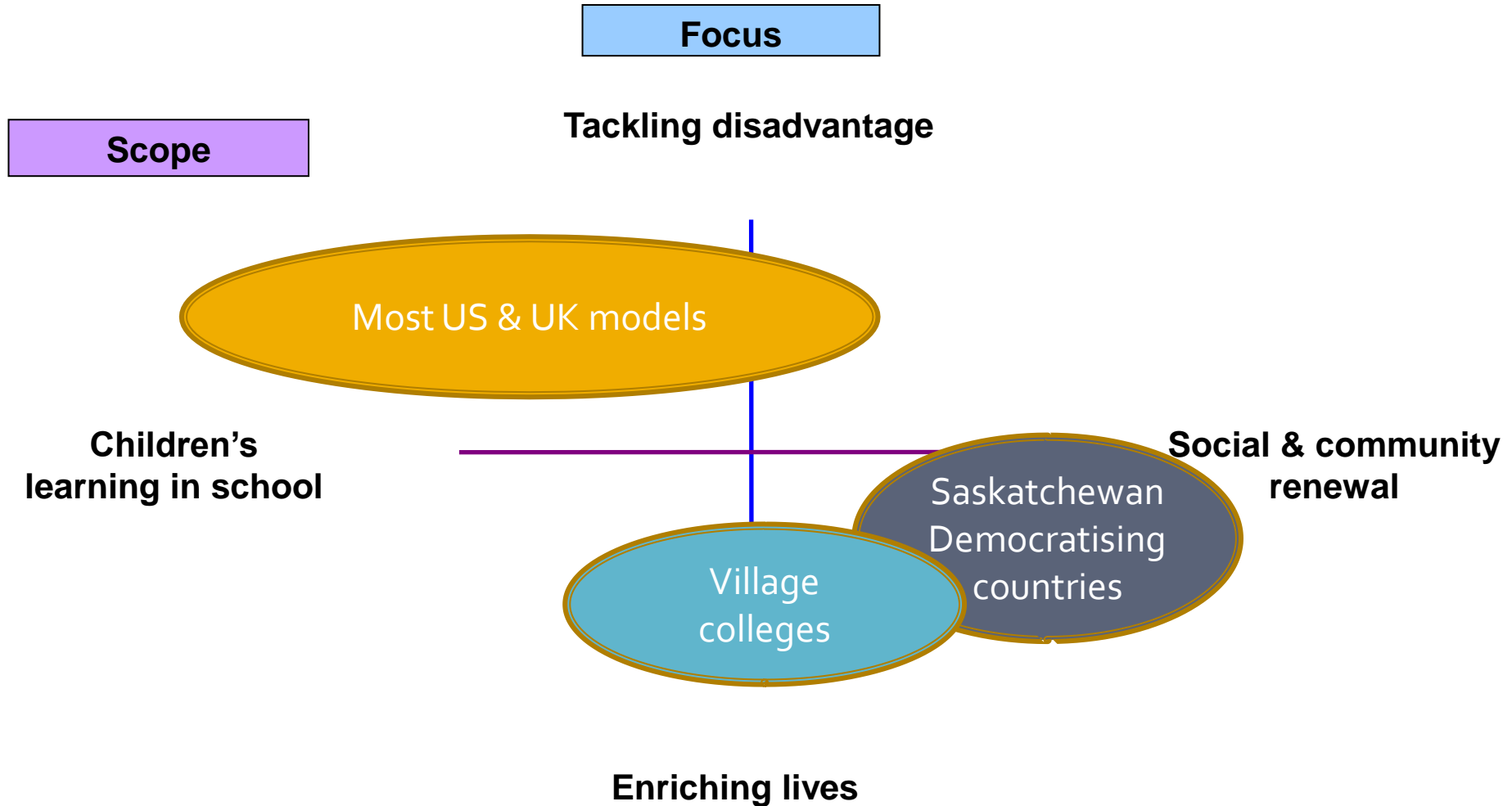
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**Community schools: what we know from  
international experience and evidence**

# Four issues

- The purposes of community schools
- The evidence for the impacts and effectiveness
- Approaches to evaluation
- New directions

# Purposes



# Problems with the evidence base

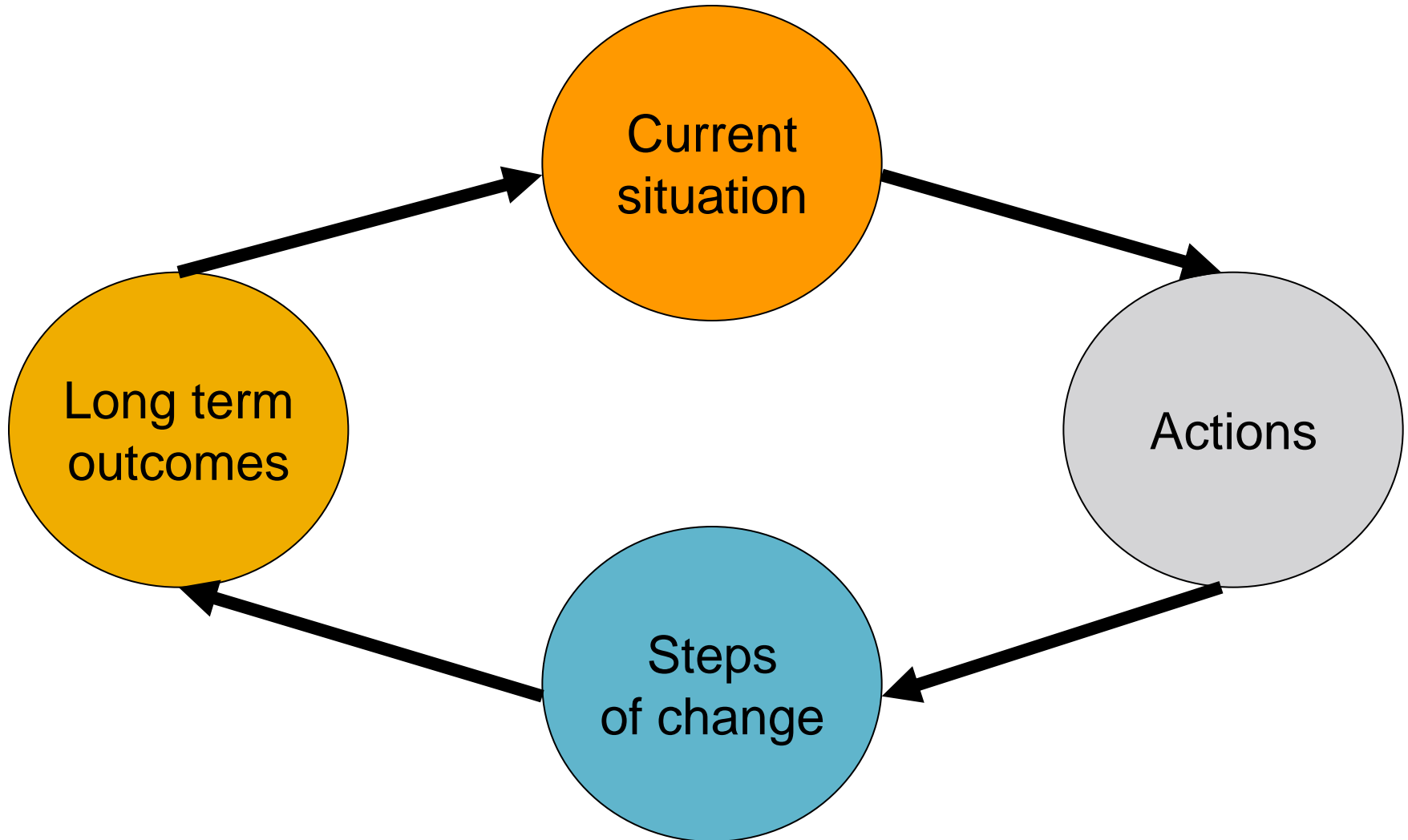
- Dubious evaluations:
  - Short-term and underpowered
  - Lack of independence & criticality
- Technical challenges:
  - Variations in rationale and modus operandi
  - Multi-strand initiatives
  - Complex & dynamic contexts
  - Multiple outcomes
  - Lack of outcome measures
  - Lack of clear comparators

# What can community schools achieve?

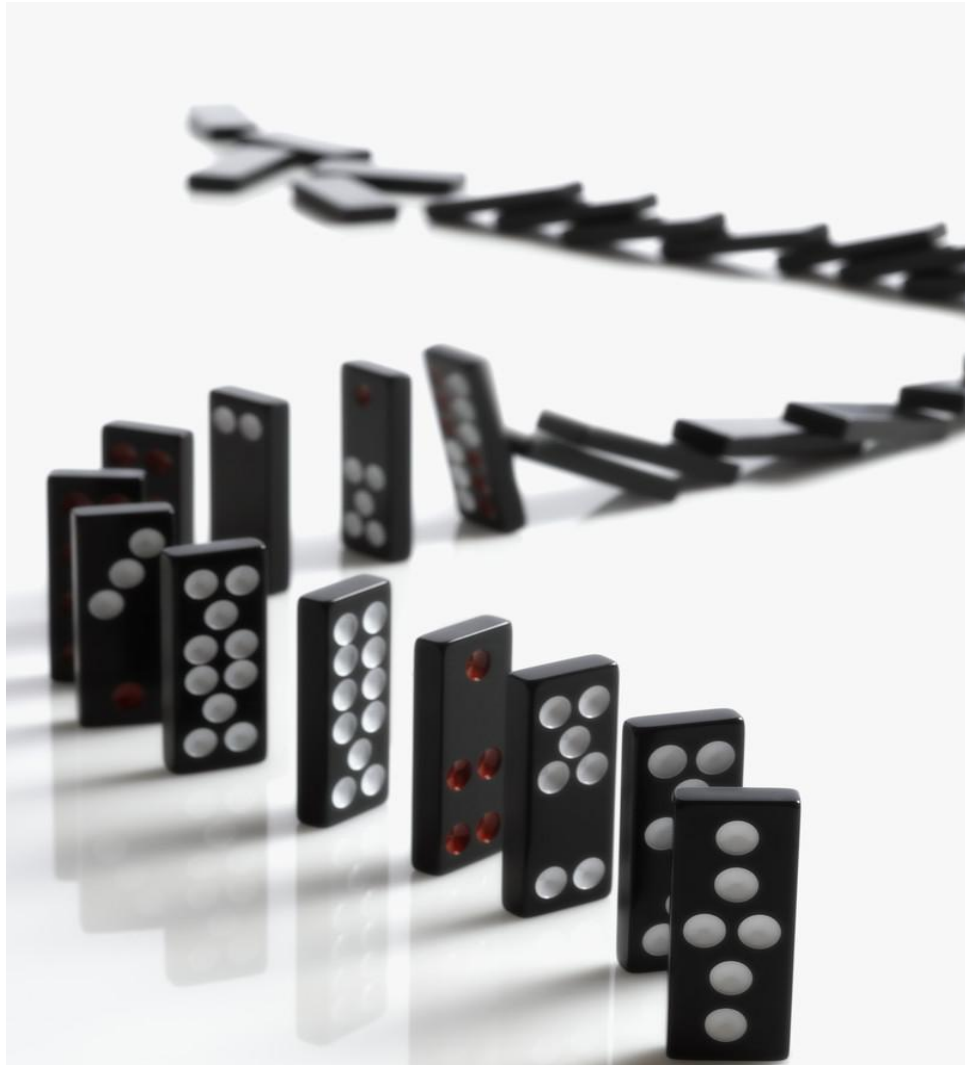
- Student learning:** Community school students show significant and widely evident gains in academic achievement and in essential areas of nonacademic development.
- Family engagement:** Families of community school students show increased stability, communication with teachers and school involvement. Parents demonstrate a greater sense of responsibility for their children's learning success.
- School effectiveness:** Community schools enjoy stronger parent-teacher relationships, increased teacher satisfaction, a more positive school environment and greater community support.
- Community vitality:** Community schools promote better use of school buildings, and their neighborhoods enjoy increased security, heightened community pride, and better rapport among students and residents.

(Blank, Melaville, & Shah, 2003)

# Building a theory of change



# Following paths



# New directions?



Harlem Children's  
**Z O N E**

<http://www.hcz.org/home>

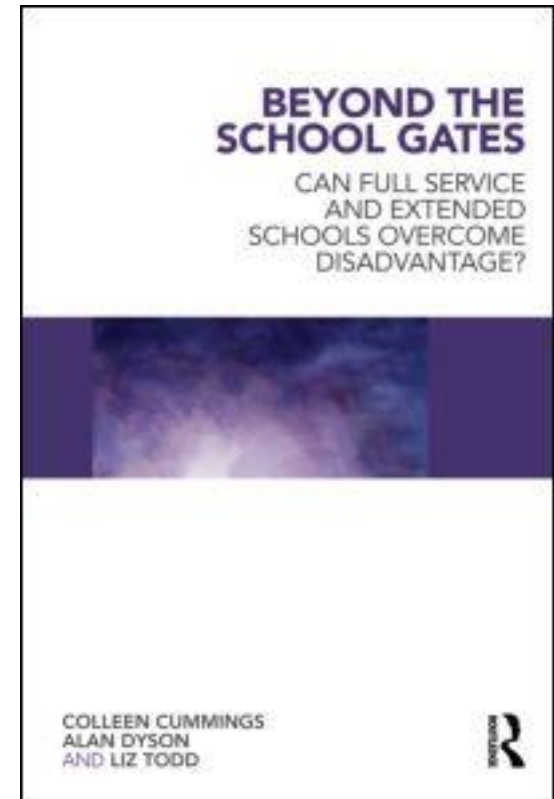
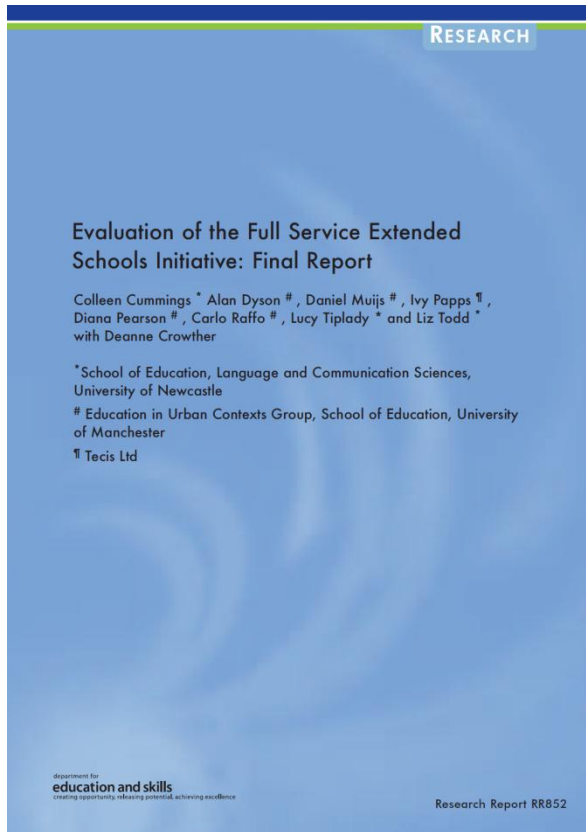
*One of our core beliefs is that in poor communities where, literally, all of the institutions are failing children, you can't do one thing and expect you'll solve the issue of scale. I mean, you can save some children with an early intervention programme, and you can save some children if you work with addicted mothers, and you can save some children if you have after-school programs. But if you start talking about how you're going to save most of the children, you have to do all those things, and do them over the long term, and you have to make sure you count how many children actually received those services.*



# The HCZ pipeline



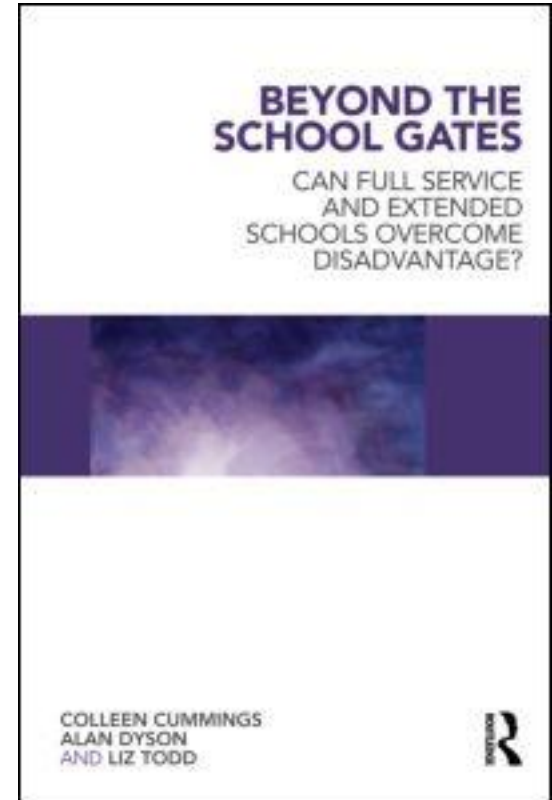
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