

## **MBOE Capstone Project – Abstract**

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In a time when K-12 schools are continually being asked to do more with less, organizations working with those schools must follow suit. This improvement project involves a not-for-profit organization working with a collaborative of school districts; providing specialized support, services and resources as districts work to increase student achievement and growth. The team involved in the improvement process had the overall goals of 1.) Developing and delivering high quality workshops to districts, and 2.) Increasing engagement of school district staff members who participate in the collaborative.

The team developed and implemented a streamlined process for planning workshops that reduced delays and rework; implemented visual controls used by the team to clearly identify, track and communicate upcoming tasks and client engagement, while assessing future work and identifying potential risks; and developed standard work instructions for workshops and engagement tasks to identify and share best practices. These improvements contributed to a potential savings in resource time of over \$80,000 over the course of the year, and provided opportunities for awareness and learning organization-wide for a team fairly new to lean thinking. In addition, 83% of the school districts that had below average student growth and attended our identified workshops during the 2011-2012 school year had achieved expected or above expected student growth by fall 2012.