

A workshop on:

The Architecture of Excellence

A strategic blueprint for navigating the School Quality Assessment & Assurance Framework (SQAAF)

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Aligned with NEP 2020 | Developed by CBSE & NCERT

The Continuous Improvement Engine



1. Quality Definition

Aligning with NEP 2020 goals for holistic and inclusive education.



2. Self Assessment

Honest, evidence-driven internal evaluation of current practices.



3. Improvement Planning

Creating actionable steps and timelines to bridge identified gaps.



4. Better Outcomes

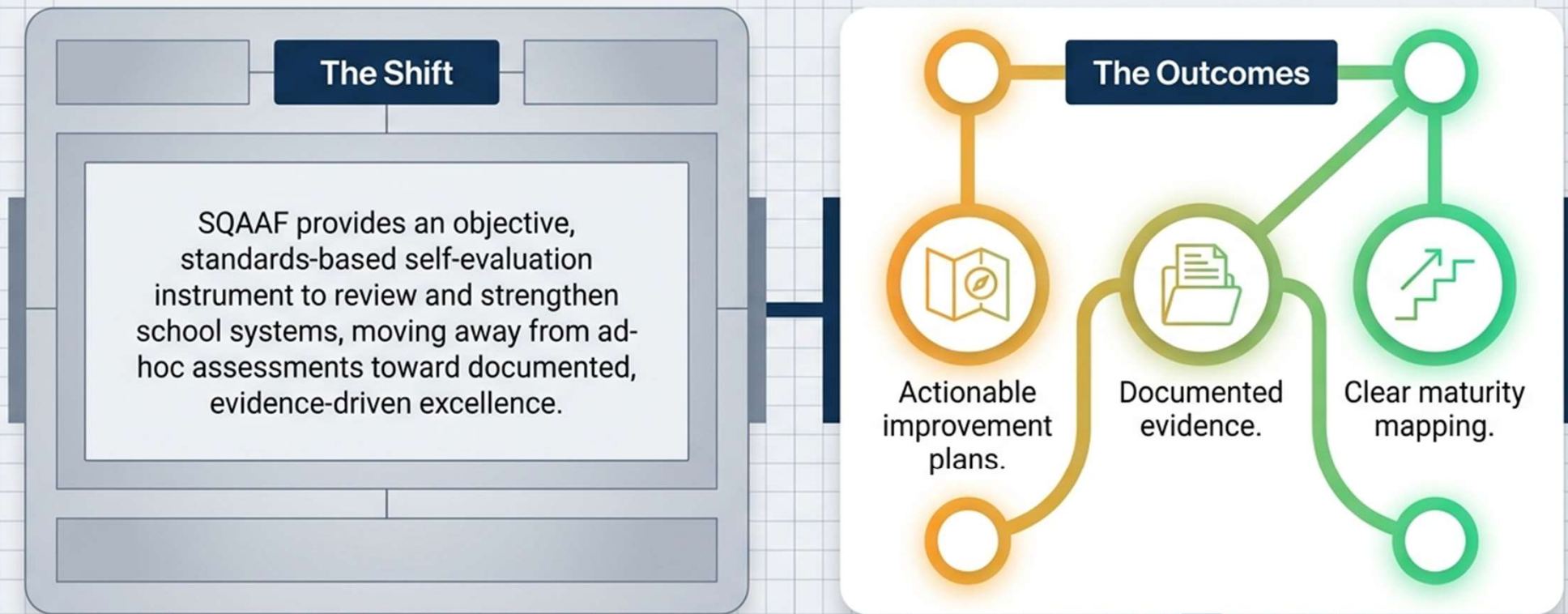
Measurable growth for students, teachers, and overall school culture.



Trainer's Tip:

Use the infinity loop to emphasize that SQAAP has no 'finish line.' Every iteration builds a stronger, safer, and more innovative school.

A systemic shift from compliance to continuous institutional growth



The Paradigm Shift: From Inspection to Improvement



The Old Model: Compliance & Inspection

Focus:

Fault-finding and bureaucratic compliance.

Frequency:

One-time, high-stress external event.

Goal:

Meeting basic minimum standards.

Culture:

Opaque, siloed, and stressful.



The SQAAF Model: Continuous Enhancement

Focus:

Evidence-based capacity building.

Frequency:

Continuous, cyclical internal assessment.

Goal:

Student-centric, holistic development.

Culture:

Transparent, collaborative, and empowering.

**Trainer's Tip:**

Acknowledge the fatigue. Validate that this is a fundamental shift from 'proving' quality to an external auditor to 'improving' quality as a unified school team.

The Engine of Growth: The 4R Quality Cycle

Review

- Where are we now?
- What are we doing?
- Why are we doing what we are doing?

Reflect

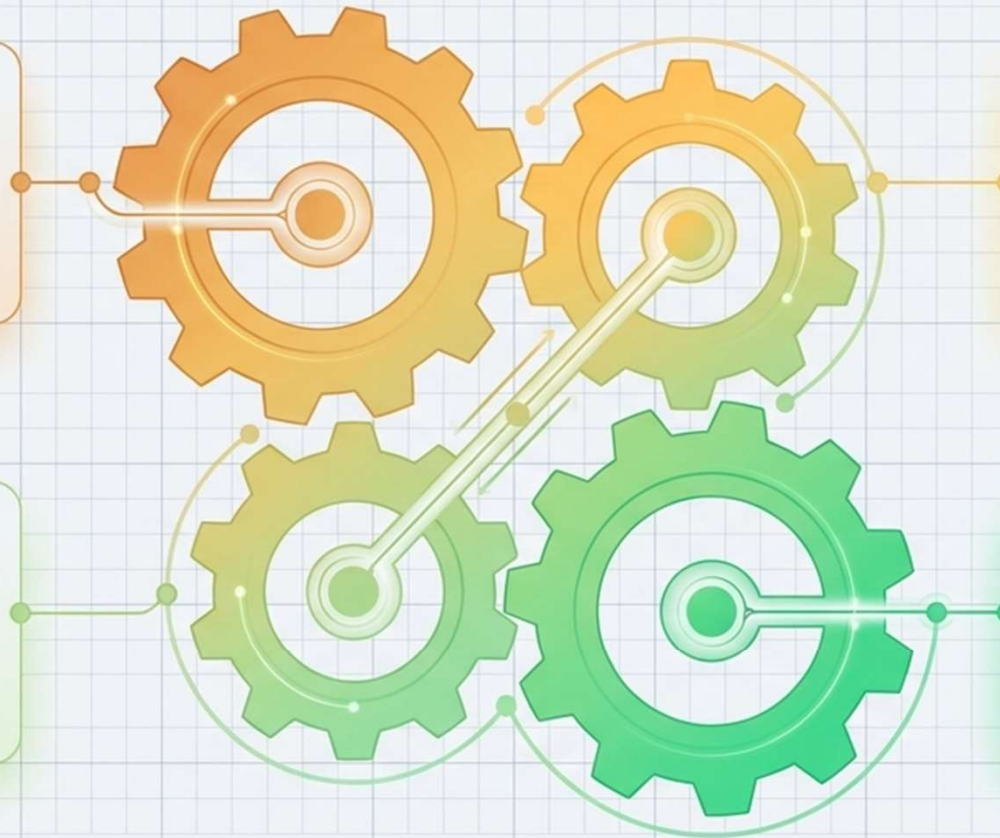
- Where do we want to go?
- What is working / not working?
- How did we get here?

Respond

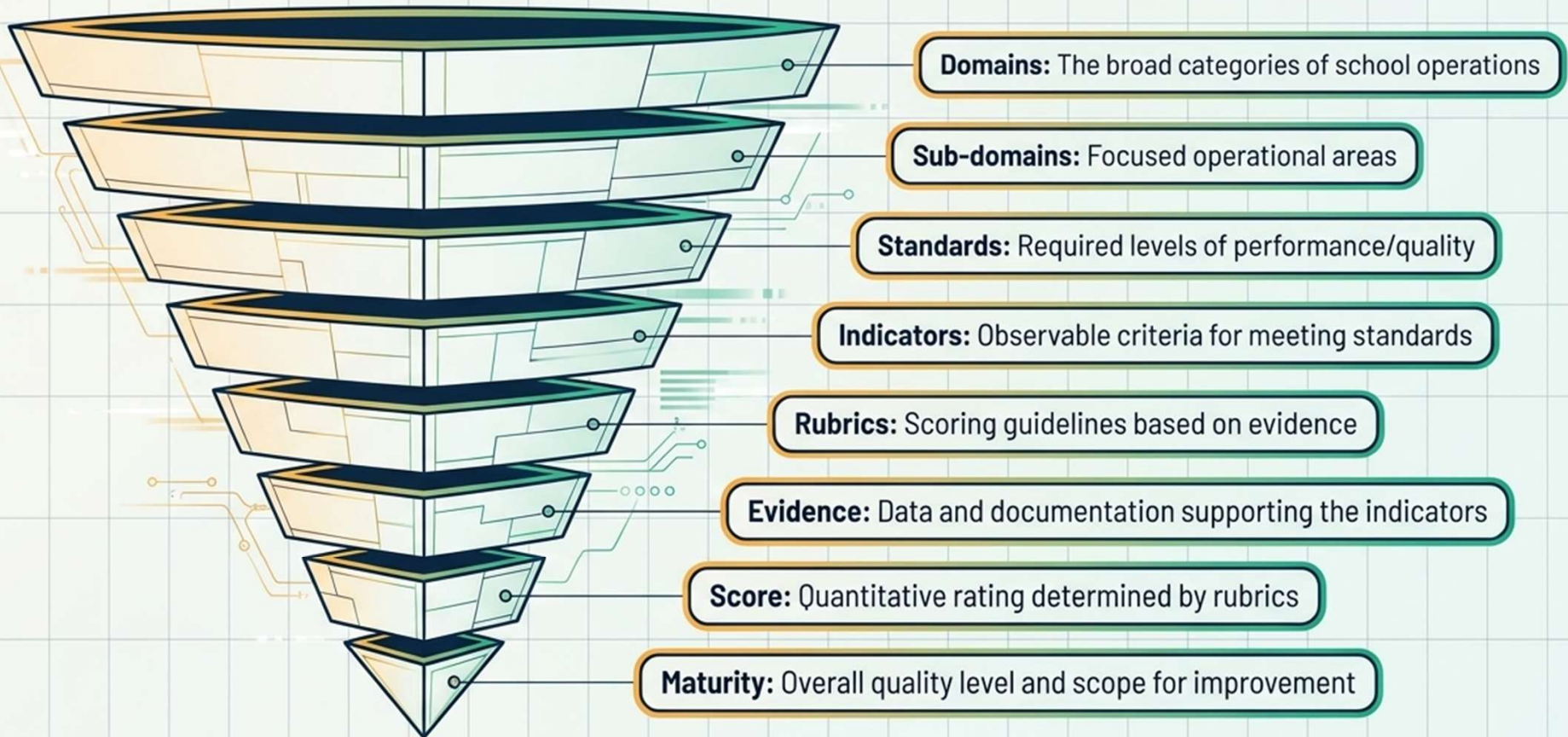
How are we going to get where we want to be?

Rate

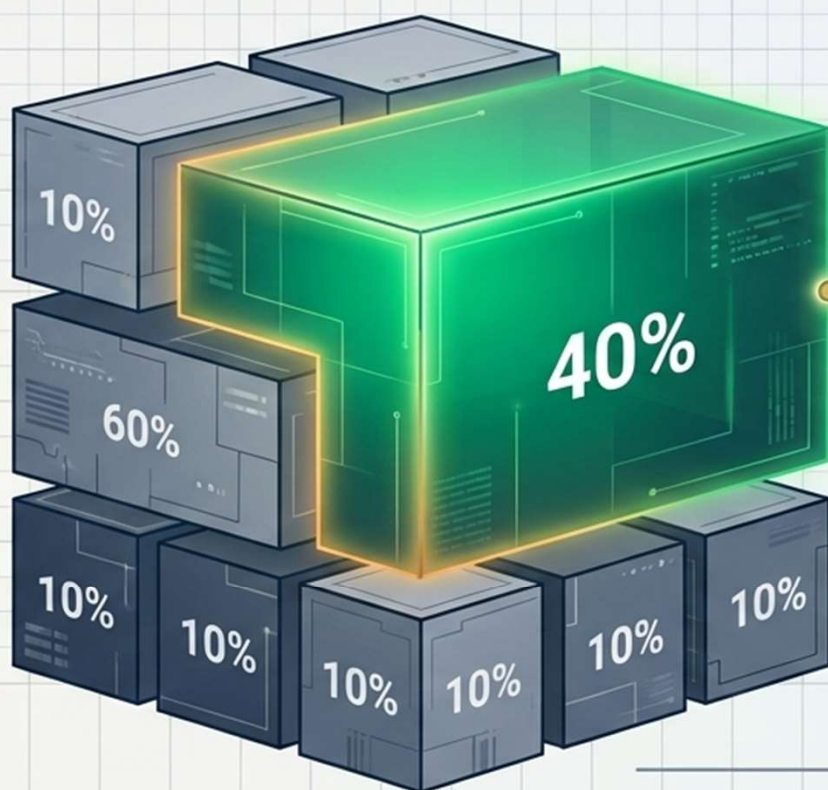
- How do we evaluate our efforts?
- Is what we are doing making a difference?



Distilling qualitative practice into measurable maturity



Curriculum and pedagogy form the indisputable core of the framework



Domain 1: Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment

7 Sub-domains | 26 Standards

Ensures alignment to NEP, competency-based learning, and evidence-driven assessment.

The six foundational pillars (10% weightage each) that support the learning ecosystem.

The six foundational pillars supporting the learning ecosystem



Infrastructure

12 Sub-domains | 20 Standards

Physical/digital resources, safety, optimization.



Human Resources

5 Sub-domains | 10 Standards

Teacher recruitment, deployment, CPD, welfare.



Inclusive Practices

5 Sub-domains | 7 Standards

Equity, gender sensitivity, special needs support.



Management & Governance

10 Sub-domains | 10 Standards

Statutory compliance, financial management, transparency.



Leadership

3 Sub-domains | 5 Standards

Vision, accountability, strategic development.



Beneficiary Satisfaction

6 Sub-domains | 6 Standards

Health, safety, life-skills, co-scholastic development.

Measuring Maturity: The 4-Level Rubric Progression



Level 1: Emerging

Basic compliance, ad-hoc processes, lacking formal documentation.



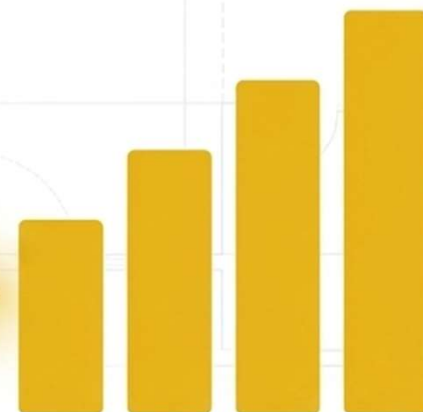
Level 2: Developing

Processes are documented but inconsistently applied; initial awareness exists.



Level 3: Proficient

Strong, consistent implementation; reliable evidence; active monitoring.



Level 4: Innovative

Exceptional practices, proactive improvement, serving as a model for other schools.

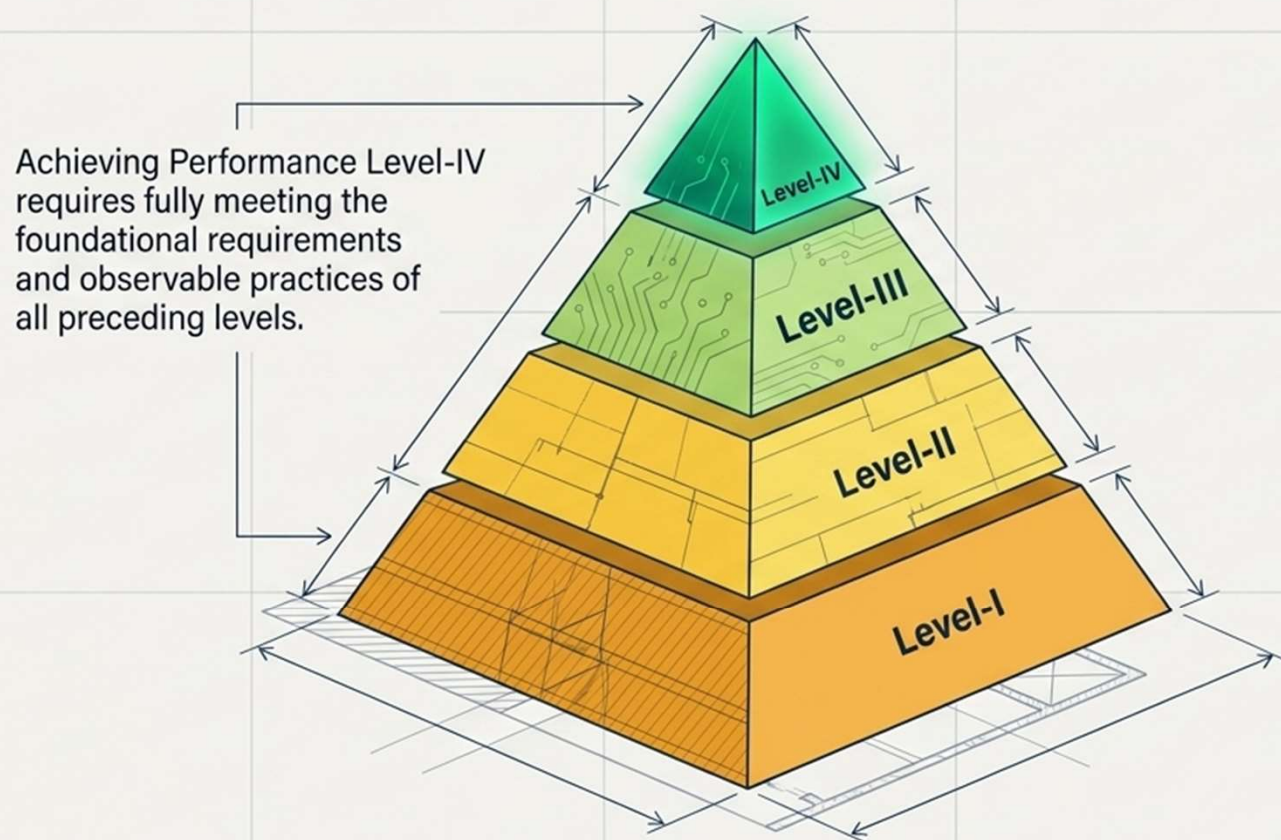


Trainer's Tip: Remind teams that a Level 1 or 2 is not a failure—it is simply the starting coordinate for your improvement journey.

Diagnosing your institution's current state of maturity

	Level-I (Inceptive)	Level-II (Transient)	Level-III (Stable)	Level-IV (Dynamic-Evolving)
System State	Initial stage	Early constructive years	Defined and documented	Strong, benchmarked processes
Practice Type	Individual-based	Generally corrective	Preventive and corrective	Self-evaluative and improvement-planned
Leadership/ People	Unaware of systemic roles	Learning roles	Aware and practicing roles	Exhibits total accountability and responsibility

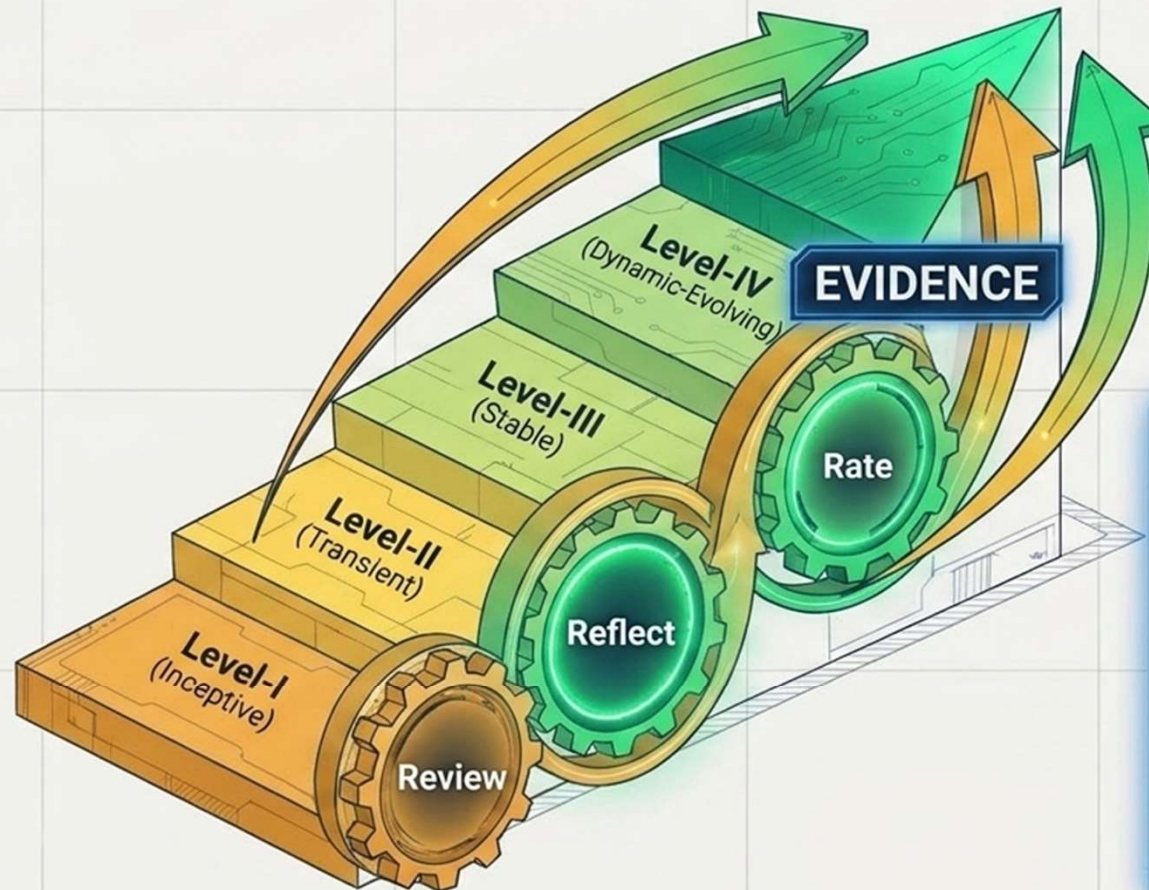
Progression is an incremental and cumulative journey



Strategic Flexibility

Schools have the flexibility to self-assess their baseline maturity, define an aspirational target level, and devise a custom action plan for each domain to bridge the gap.

The Evidence-to-Excellence Pathway



Movement up the maturity continuum is not achieved by time, but by evidence. The quality of data gathered during the 'Reflect' and 'Rate' phases determines a school's ability to evolve from an 'Inceptive' state to a 'Dynamic-Evolving' learning organization.

Proving the Practice: Indicators & Evidence



Performance Indicators (PIs)

The objective, measurable criteria used to evaluate the school's self-performance against a specific standard.



The Evidence Bank



Pedagogical

Lesson plans, Student portfolios, Assessment records.



Administrative

Circulars, Attendance registers, Meeting minutes.



Digital

ERP reports, Website updates, Digital records, Videos.



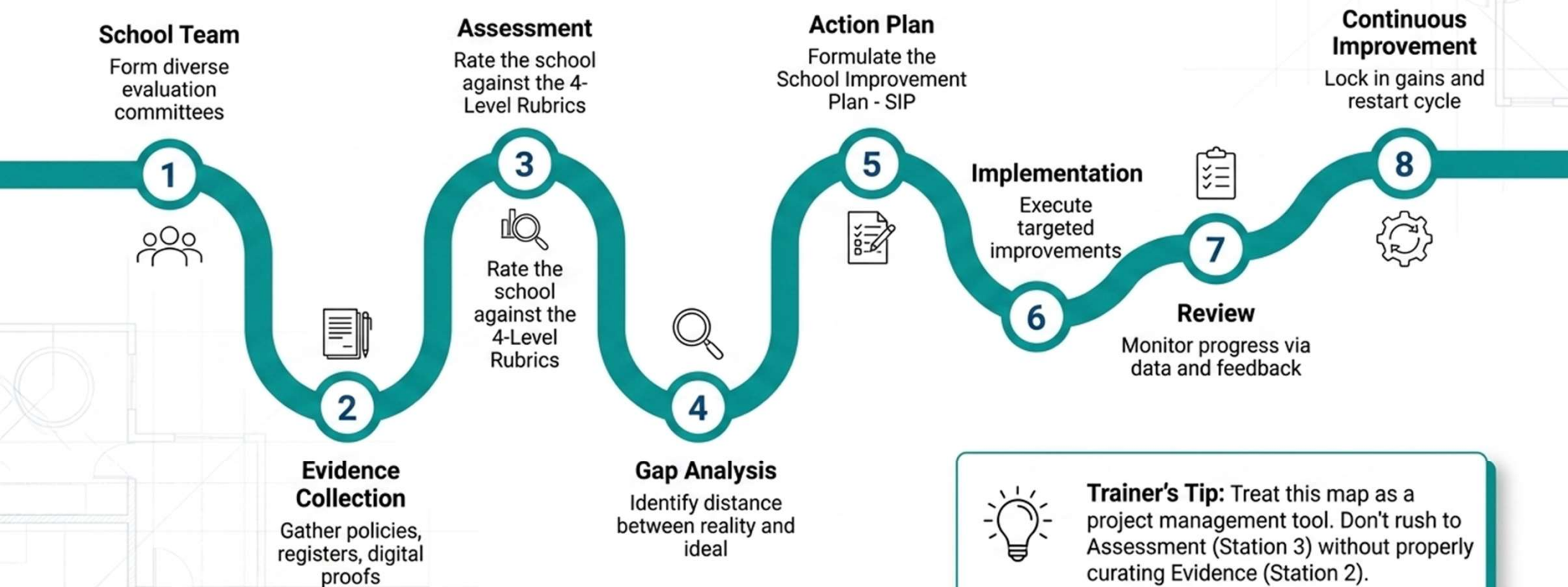
Feedback

Online surveys, Training reports, Certificates.



Trainer's Tip: Evidence is already all around you. The goal is not to create new work, but to systematically capture the great work you are already doing.

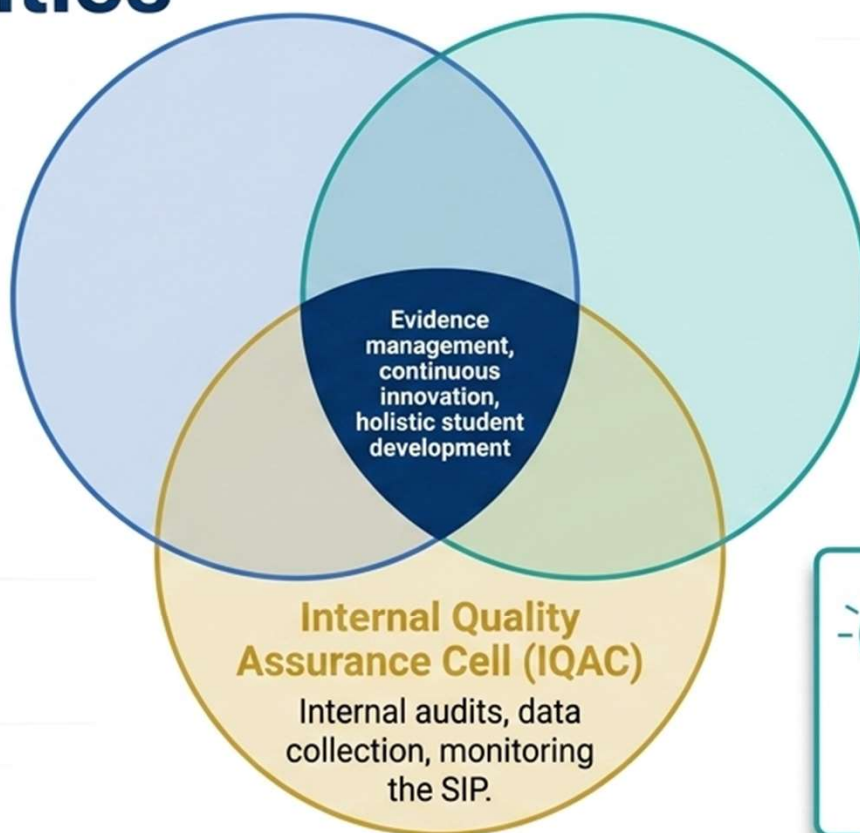
The Self-Assessment Roadmap



The Human Engine: Shared Responsibilities

School Leaders (Principal/Admin)

Strategic vision, resource allocation, statutory compliance, fostering culture.



Teachers

Lesson planning, competency-based instruction, student portfolios, parent communication.

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Internal audits, data collection, monitoring the SIP.



Trainer's Tip: SQAACF cannot be outsourced to a single department. It requires distributed leadership where every stakeholder understands their distinct impact.

Spotlight on IQAC: The System Navigators

Data & Documentation

Centralizing evidence repositories and maintaining the Quality Calendar.

Capacity Building

Supporting teacher development and facilitating Professional Learning Communities.



Audits & Monitoring

Conducting internal reviews and tracking academic progress.

Innovation & Feedback

Managing student/parent feedback loops and maintaining the Innovation Register.



Trainer's Tip: The IQAC should act as facilitators and coaches, not internal police. Their role is to make quality enhancement frictionless.

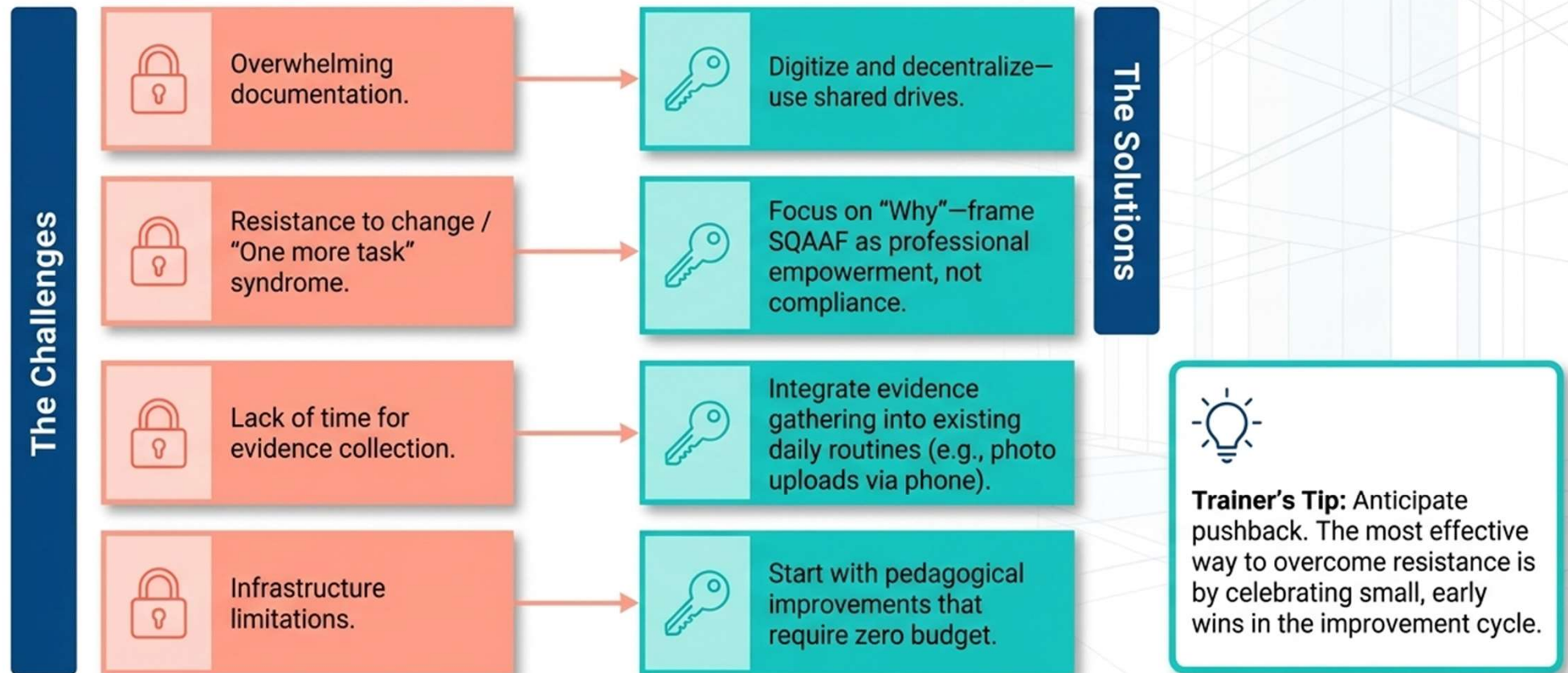
Activating the Blueprint: The SIP Matrix

Identified Gap (From Assessment)	Action Required (The Fix)	Responsibility Matrix (Who)	Timeline (When)	Expected Outcome (The Metric)
Inconsistent ICT integration in primary classrooms.	Procure smartboards; train teachers on digital pedagogy.	Admin (Procurement) & IQAC (Training).	Q2 Academic Year.	100% of primary lesson plans include digital experiential learning.



Trainer's Tip: A successful SIP is highly specific. If the 'Responsibility' column just says 'Everyone,' the task will never get done.

Navigating Roadblocks: Challenges & Solutions



The 12-Month Implementation Roadmap



Months 1-3 (Preparation)

Orientation, IQAC formation, baseline planning.



Months 4-6 (Assessment)

Active evidence collection and internal evaluation against Rubrics.



Months 10-12 (Review)

Monitoring outcomes, auditing data, and locking in best practices for the next year.



Months 7-9 (Action)

Drafting the SIP and initiating targeted improvements.



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Drafting the SIP and initiating targeted improvements.



Trainer's Tip: Pace yourselves. Spreading the workload across the academic year prevents burnout and ensures deep, sustainable changes.

The 10-Point Readiness Checklist



Quality is a continuous journey, not an inspection.



Honestly map your current reality on the 4-Level Rubric.



Align all goals with NEP 2020 principles.



Build a highly specific School Improvement Plan (SIP).



Form an empowered, collaborative IQAC.



Distribute leadership—every teacher is a quality manager.



Transition from fault-finding to evidence-finding.



Digitize your evidence repository to save time.



Use the 7 Domains as your holistic ecosystem model.



Remember: Every child matters, every teacher matters, every school can excel.



Trainer's Tip: Leave this slide up during your closing remarks. It acts as the ultimate summary manifesto for your school's new operational culture.

Initiate your self-assessment roadmap today

All CBSE-affiliated schools undertake self-assessment annually. Engage with the SQAAF Information Portal to collaboratively review your baseline, plan improvements, and collect verifiable evidence.

Request a pilot and evidence collection roadmap via the SQAAF Portal.

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