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FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT

Promoting Learning & Development in High Quality OST Settings for Low-Income and Marginalized Children & Youth

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Young people need to feel safe and supported to learn and thrive.

Quality is more than CONTENT

Features of Positive Developmental Settings

(NRC Community Programs that Promote Youth Development, 2002)

- Physical and psychological safety
- Appropriate structure
- Supportive relationships
- Opportunities to Belong
- Positive Social Norms
- Supports for Efficacy and Mattering
- Opportunities for Skill Building
- Integration of Family, School and Community Efforts

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The **Pyramid of Program Quality** describes characteristics of settings that support positive youth development

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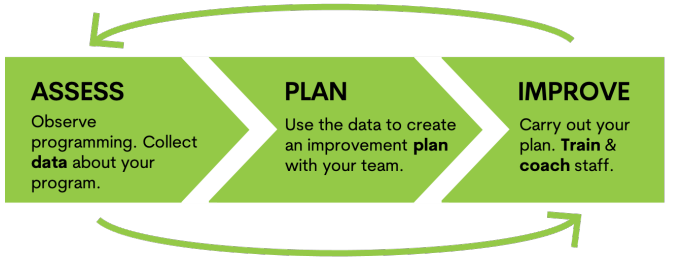
Elements of the Youth Program Quality Improvement Approach

Our continuous quality improvement approach is made up of **4 Core Practices**



1. quality assessment
2. improvement planning
3. coaching by site leaders to support staff practice
4. staff attendance at targeted trainings for professional skill building

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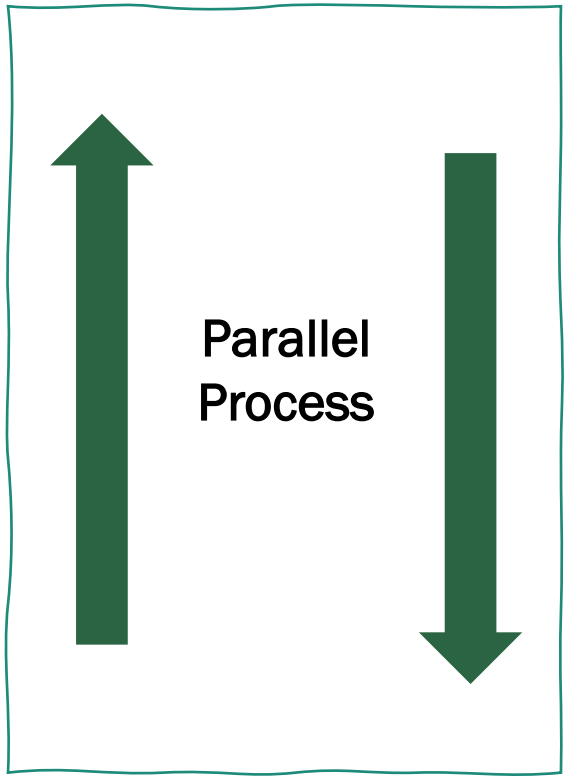
Quality experiences matter for young people AND for staff

Young people (especially those who have been marginalized) embrace their potential when they feel:

- Safe
- Supported
- Respected
- Seen and heard
- Challenged
- Allowed to use all the assets they bring

Staff (even those who are older youth) create potential in environments where they feel the same things.



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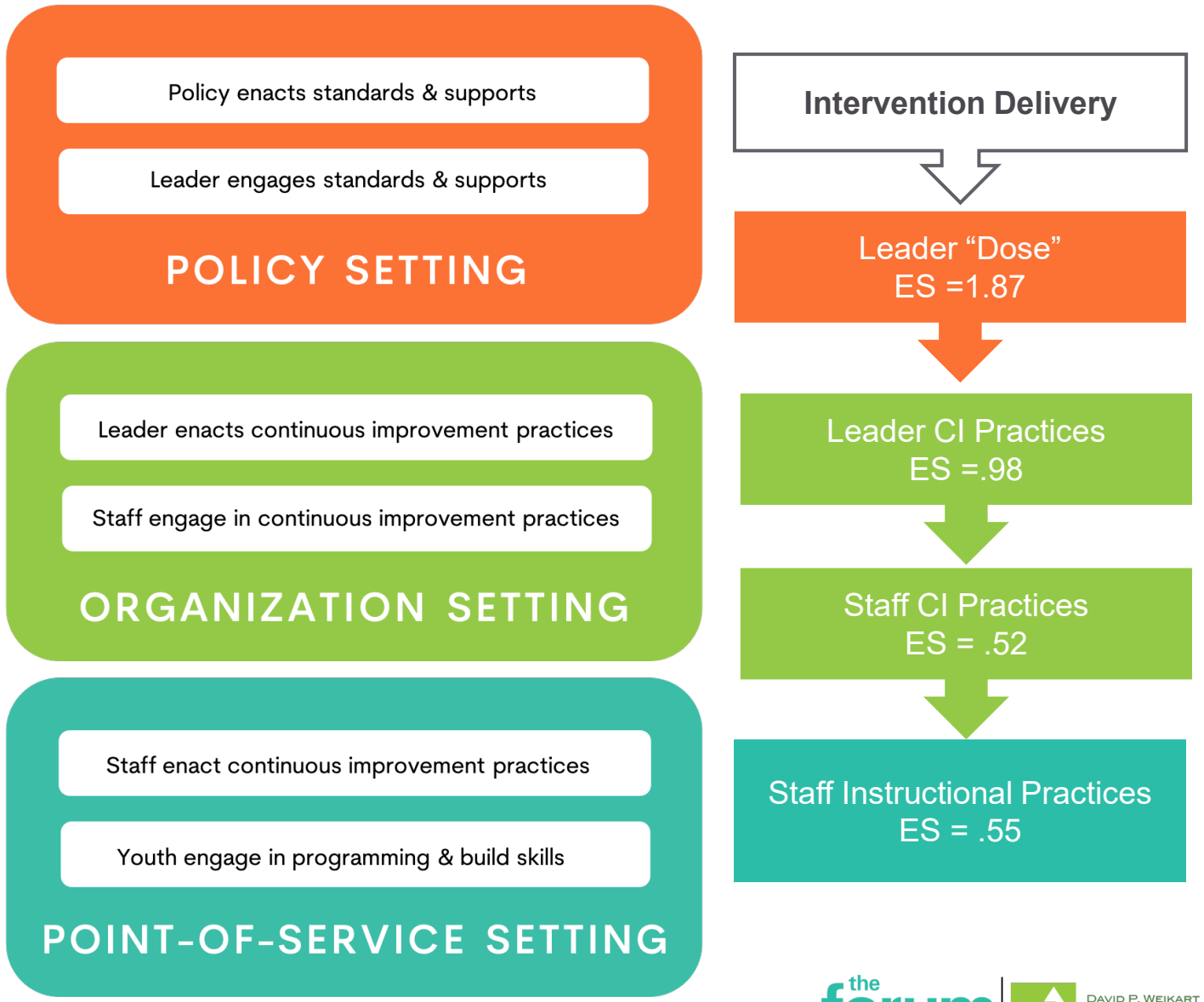
The parallel process operates throughout multiple levels of youth serving systems



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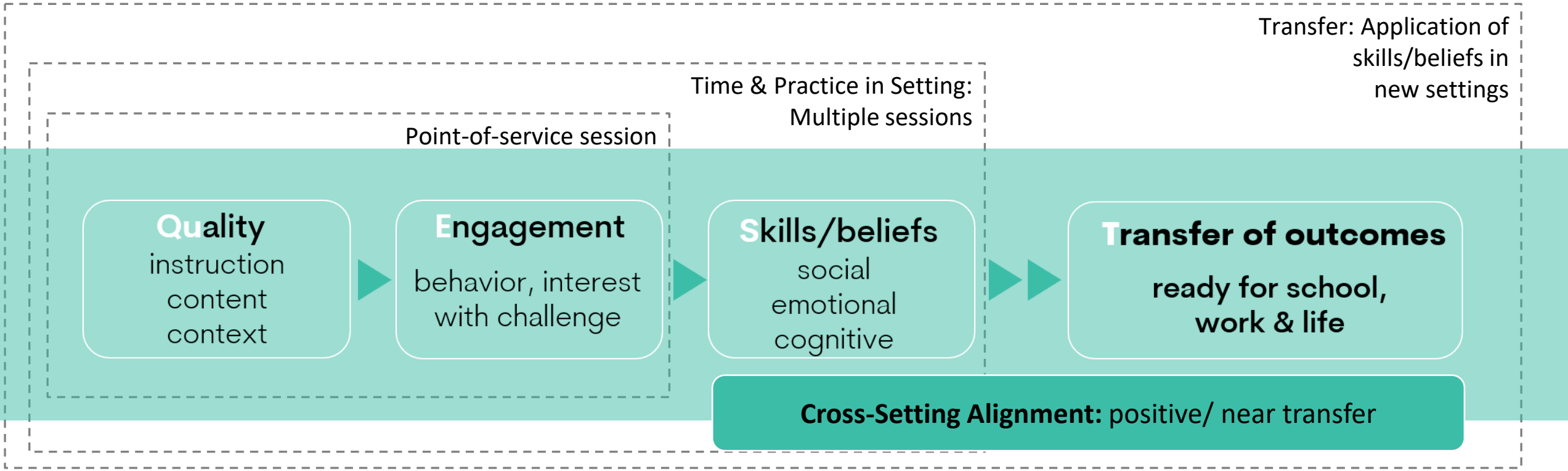
How does Quality impact Outcomes? The QuEST model



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Read more about the QuEST Model

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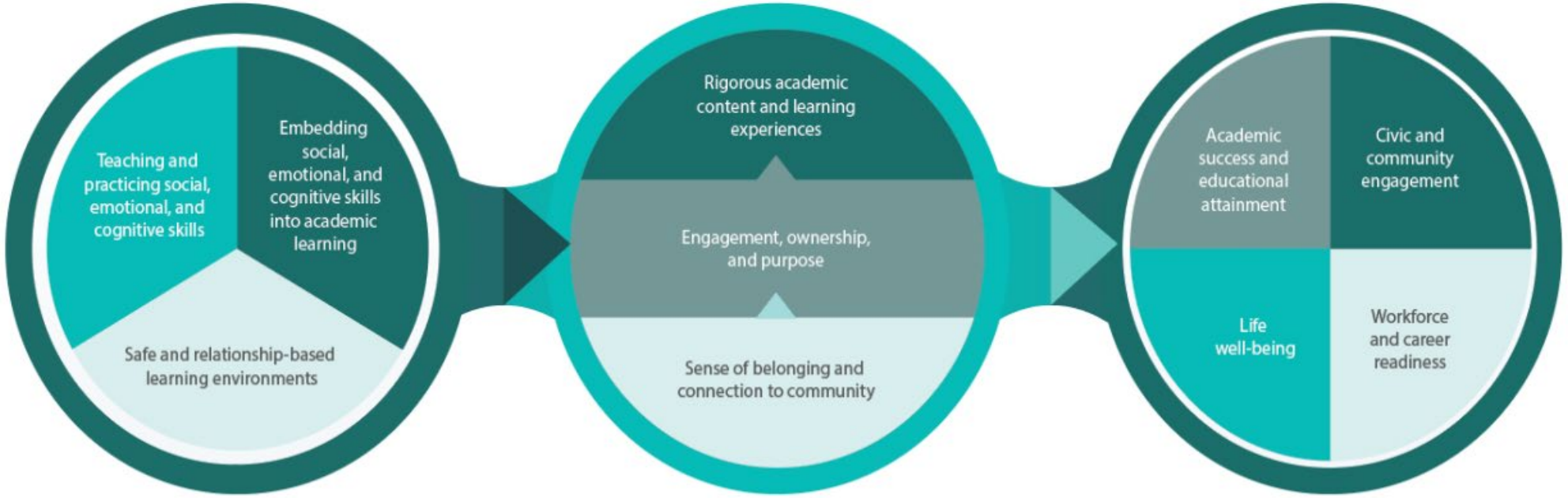
Focusing on Program Quality Supports How Learning Happens.



LEARNING SETTINGS

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

STUDENT OUTCOMES

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