



Problem Solving to Meet the Needs of Students

Problem Solving Defined...

Problem Solving is a federally mandated process with the goal of the improvement of learning for all students by maximizing the use of a building's resources and services.

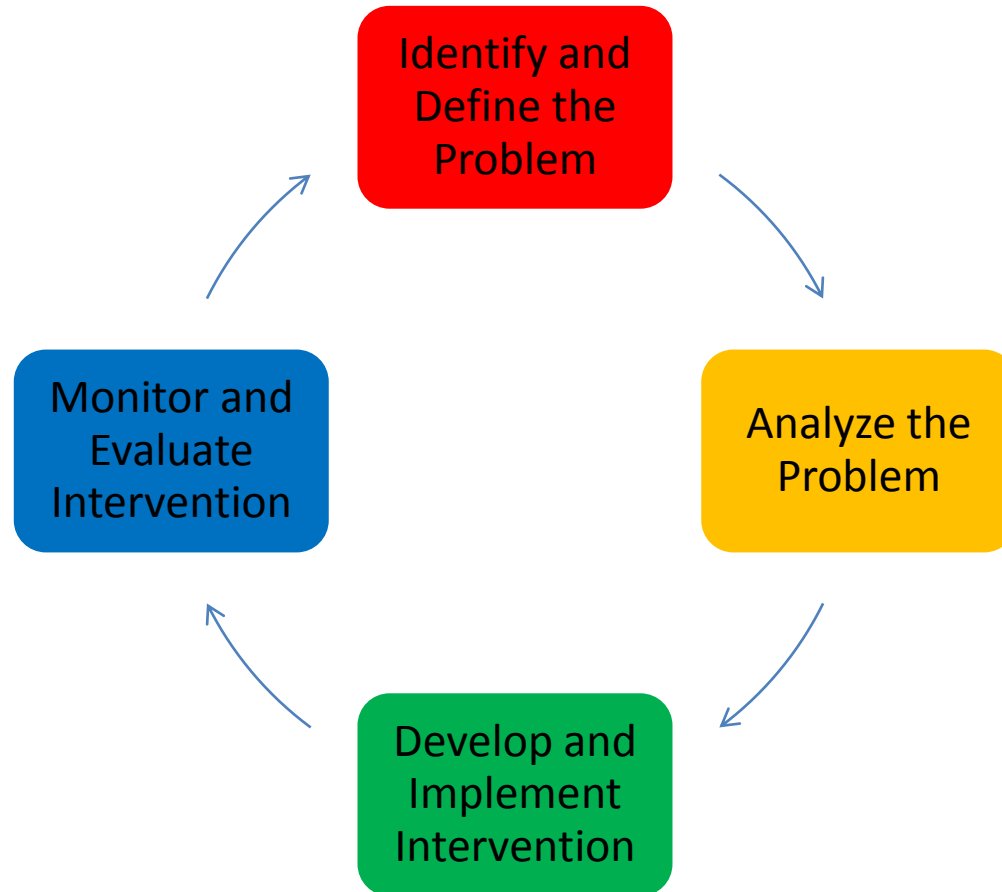
What are the features of the approach?

- Collaboration/Team Decision Making
- Data-based Decision Making
- Hypothesis-Driven Interventions
- Research-Based Interventions
- Classroom-Based Assessments to Monitor Progress
- Parent Involvement
- Shared Responsibility for Meeting Student Needs

The vision for Problem Solving in District 101 is based on the following beliefs:

- All children can learn when given the appropriate method of instruction
- Parents have vast knowledge about their children and should be partners as early as possible
- Children should be assisted when concerns arise, before the problems get bigger , using all of the available resources in a school
- Children's needs should be met in the general education setting and within the general education curriculum to the greatest extent possible

The Problem Solving Process



Problem Solving

Step 1

- **Define the Problem**
- **Identify Discrepancies**

Problem Solving Step 2

Analyze the Problem

- **Analyze the Factors Leading to the Problem**
- **Choose Hypothesis**
- **Choose a Standard**
- **Develop a Goal**
- **Develop Baseline Data**

Factors to Consider

- Student Characteristics
- Classroom/School Environment
- Teaching/Learning Interaction
- Curriculum
- Peer Relations
- Home &/or Community Issues

Problem Solving Step 3

Develop and Implement Intervention

- **Identify appropriate intervention**
- **Implement the plan**

What Are Interventions?

- Research-based strategies designed to improve/enrich academic performance or change the behavior of a specific learner
- Follow an analysis of critical factors
- Include the documenting and analyzing of data
- Have a logical connection to a previously developed hypothesis
- Are able to be measured and evaluated

Problem Solving Step 4

Monitor and Evaluate Intervention

- **Monitor progress**
- **Meet to review
performance**
- **Analyze the effectiveness
of the plan**
- **Make decisions**

What is Progress Monitoring?

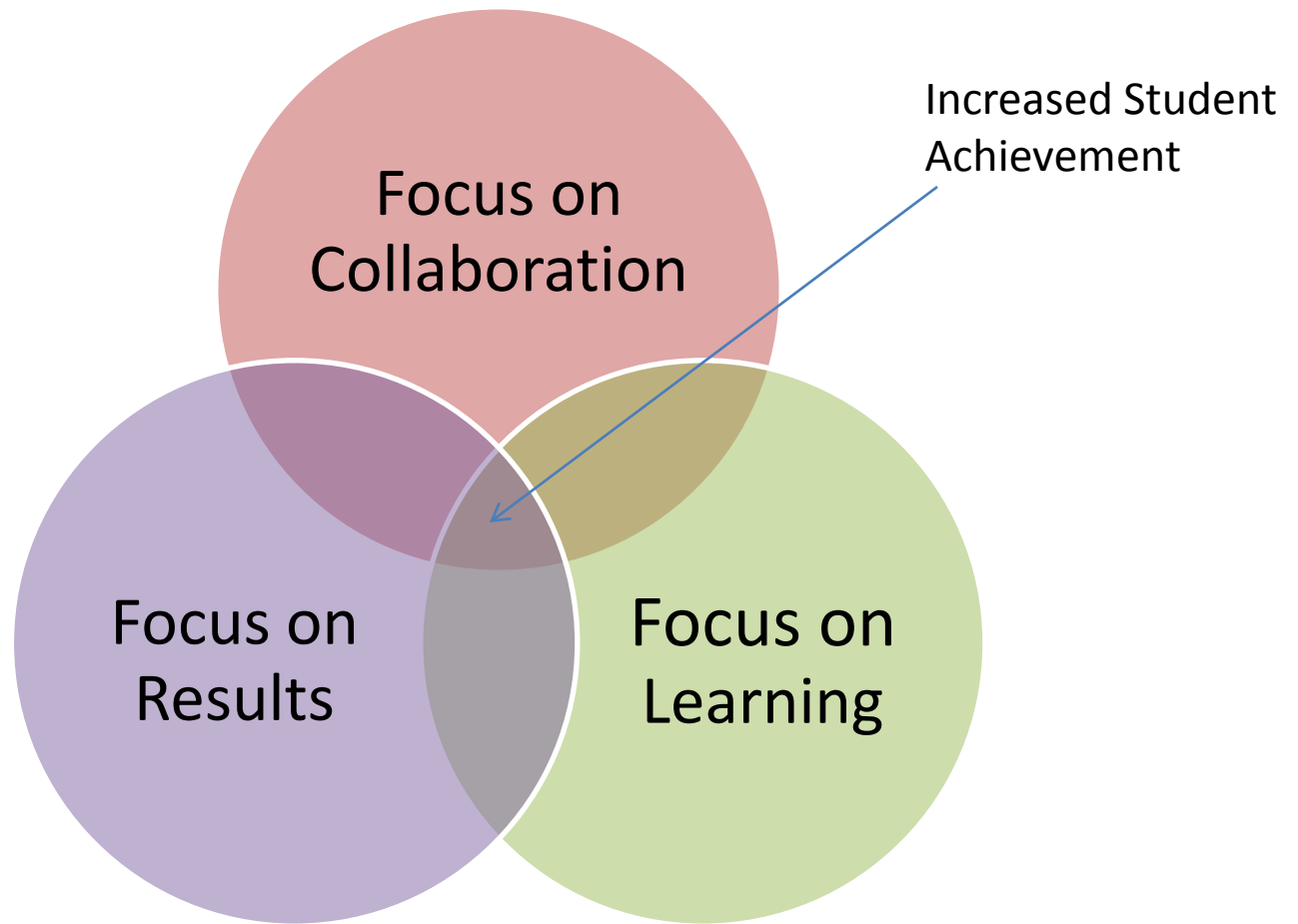
- Systematic procedure for the frequent and repeated collection and analysis of student performance data
- It may be used to monitor any academic or non-academic behavior
- It allows for the examination of student performance across time to evaluate intervention effectiveness

Professional Learning Communities Initiative at Batavia High School

PLC Defined

- A professional learning community is a collaboration of teachers, administrators, parents, and students who work together to seek out best practices, test them in the classroom, continuously improve processes, and focus on results.

The PLC Big Picture



Focus of the PLCs

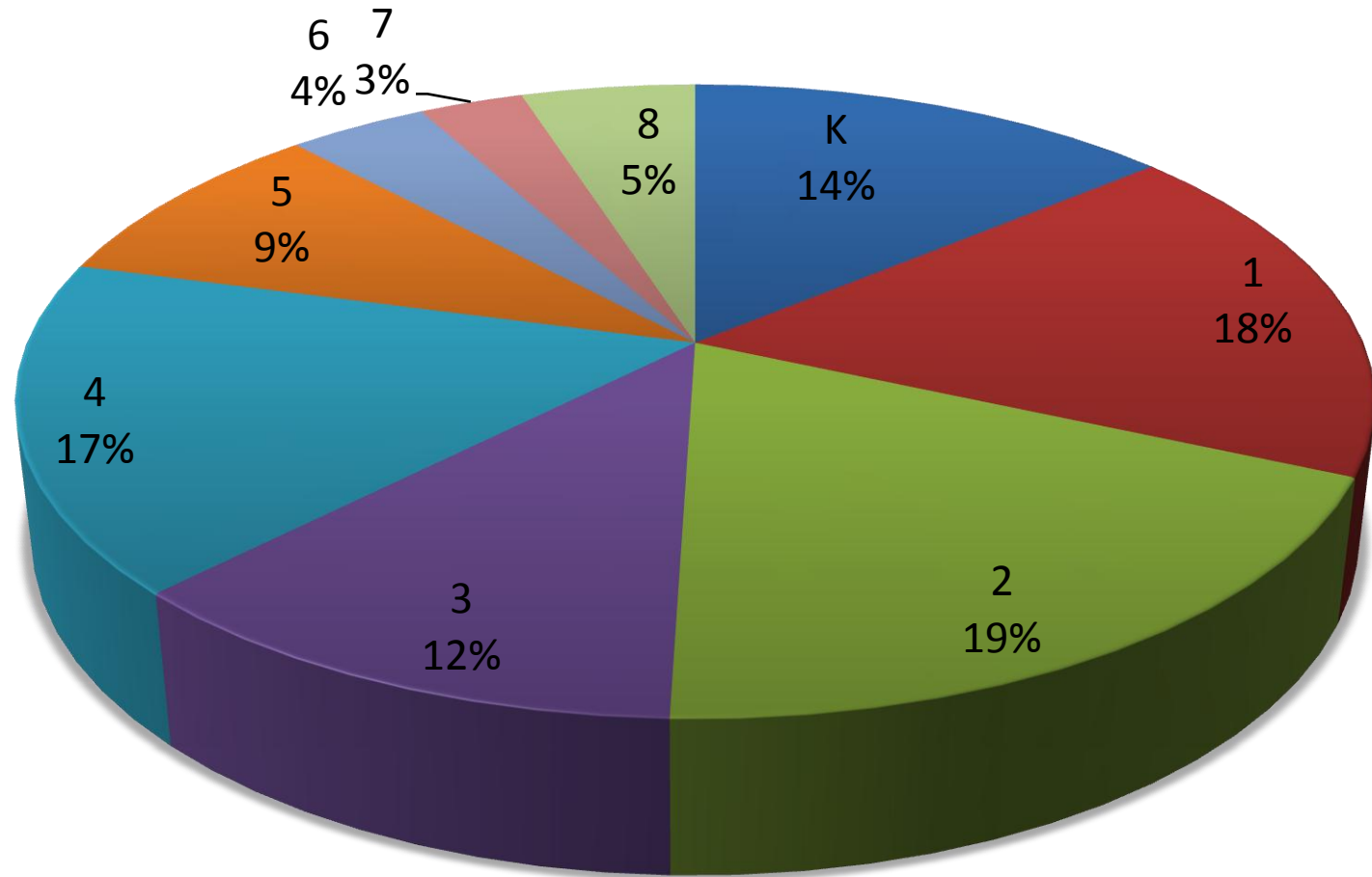
- PLC Questions
 - What do we want students to know?
 - How do we know they have learned it?
 - What do we do when they don't learn it?
 - What do we do when they already know it?

Problem Solving Results

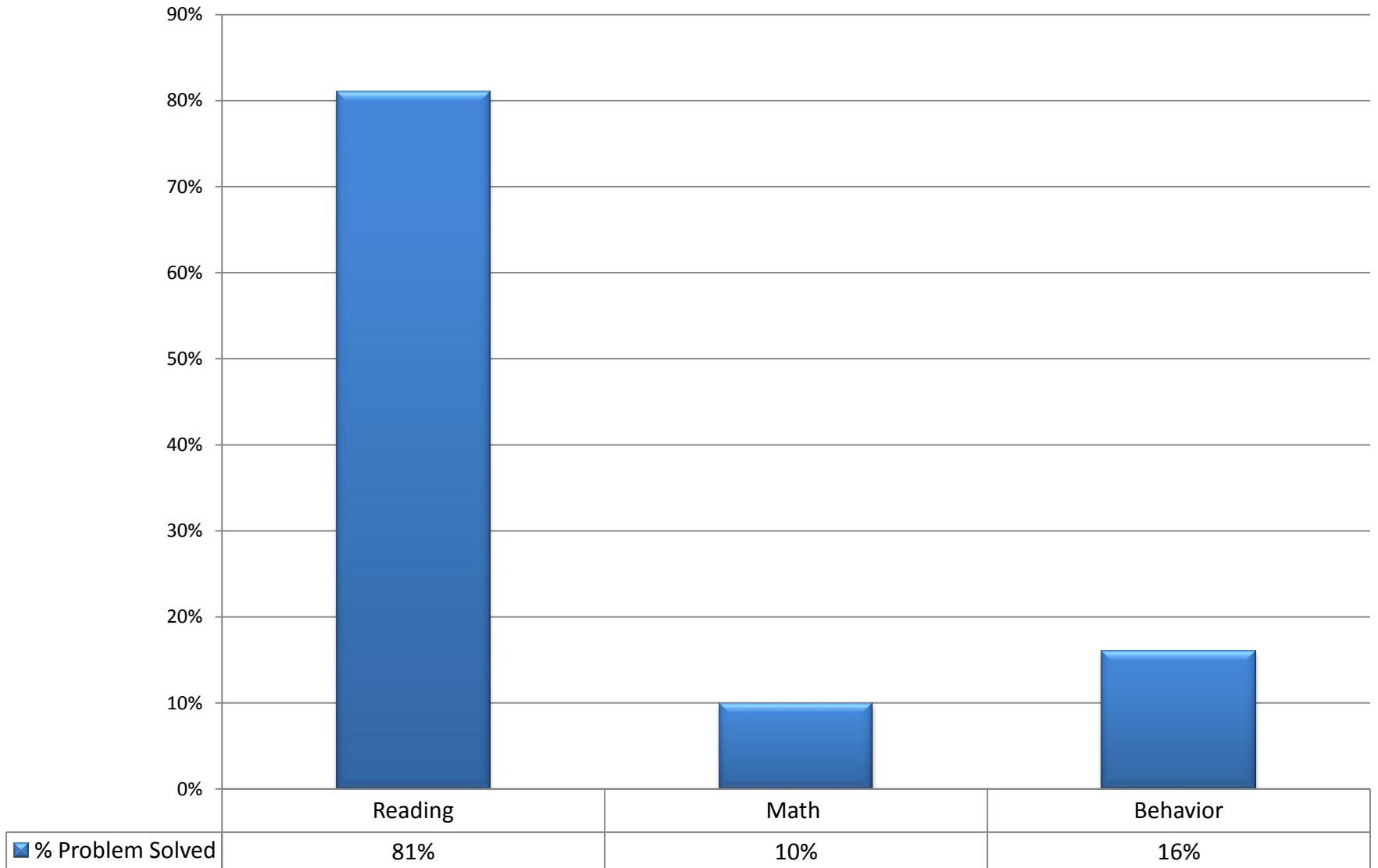
During the 2008-2009 School Year

- 34 teams at elementary and middle school problem-solved
- 24 teams at elementary and 10 teams at middle school
- 626 students were provided interventions

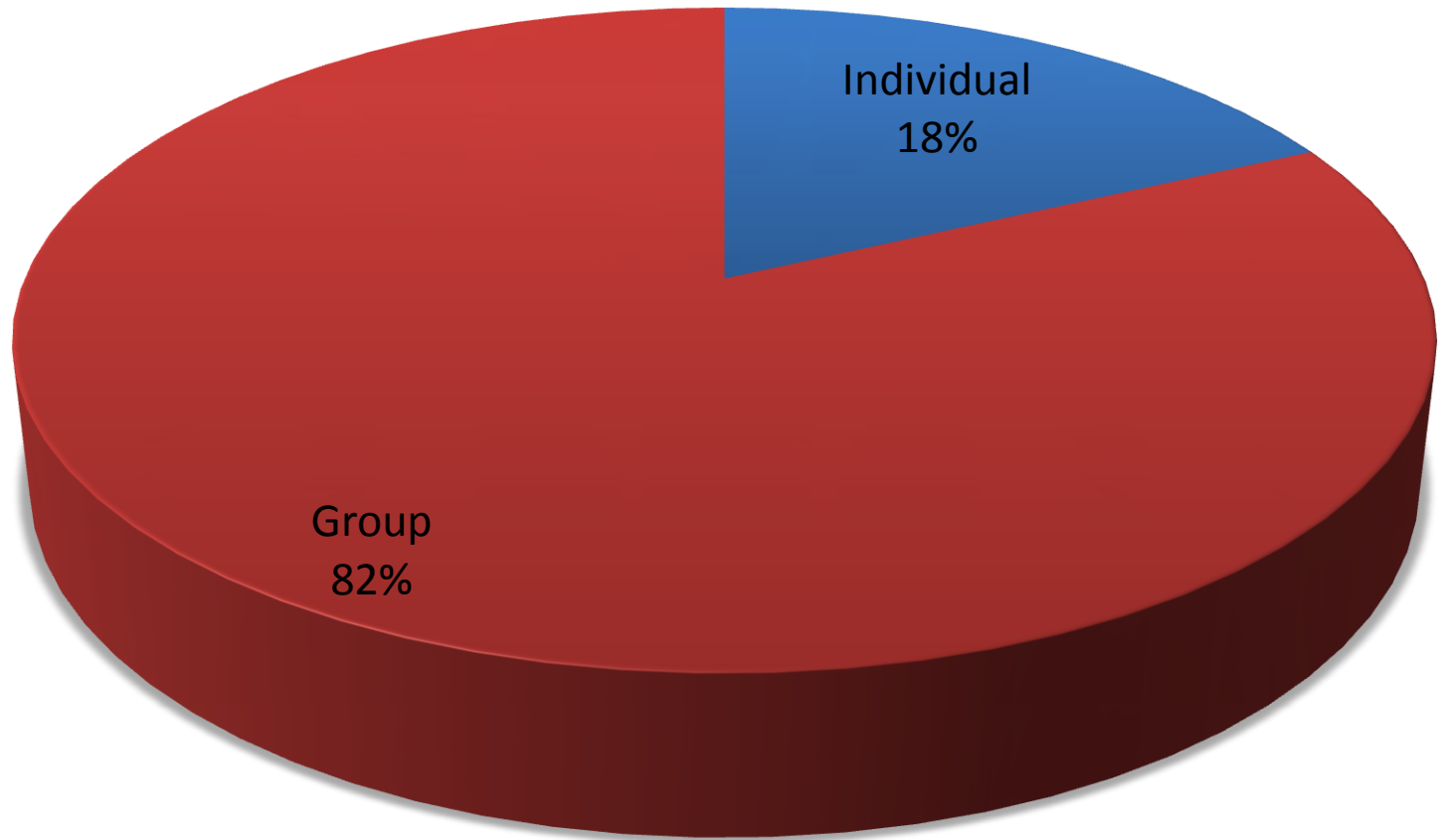
Grade Levels of Students Problem Solved



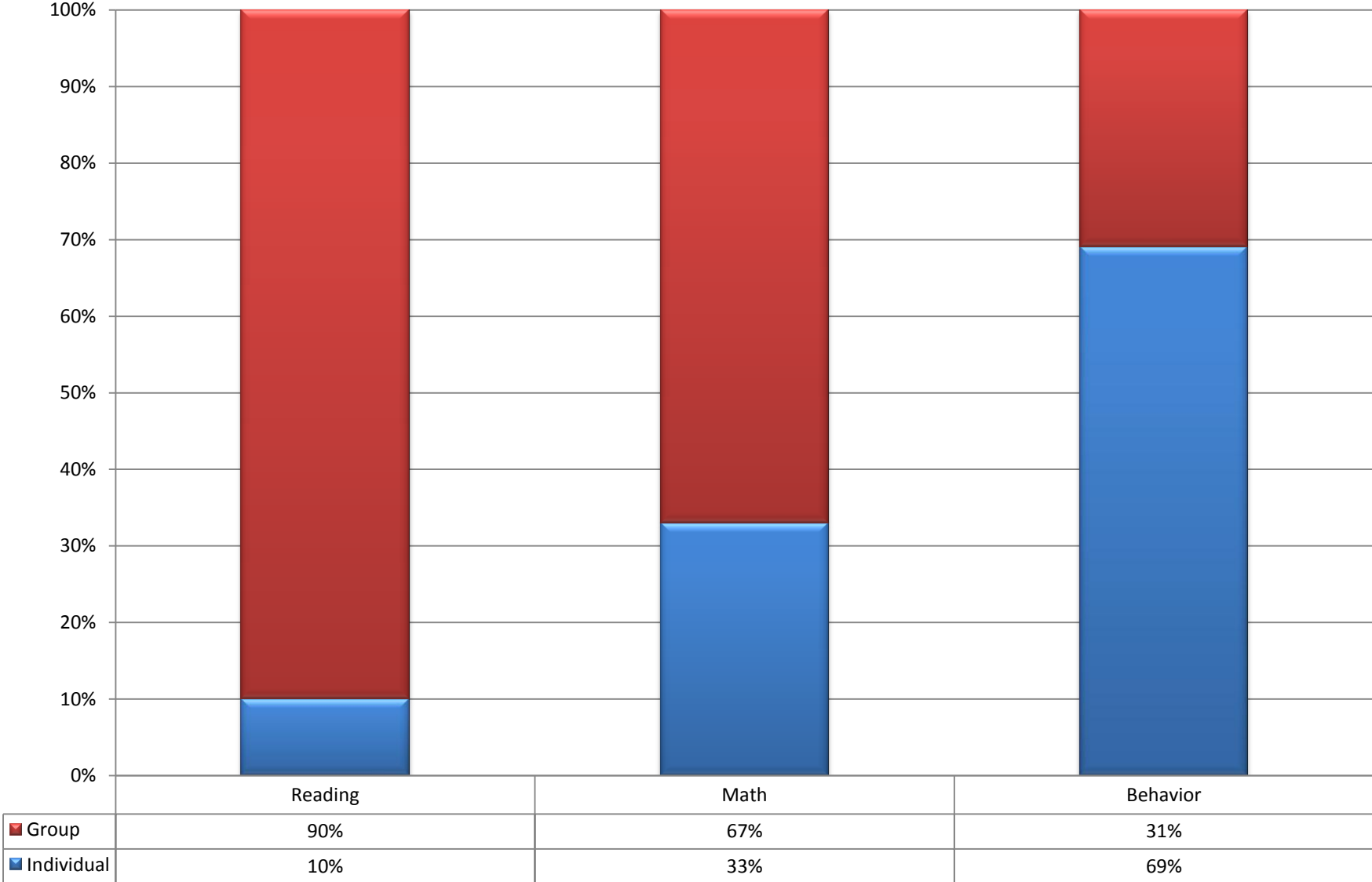
Types of Interventions



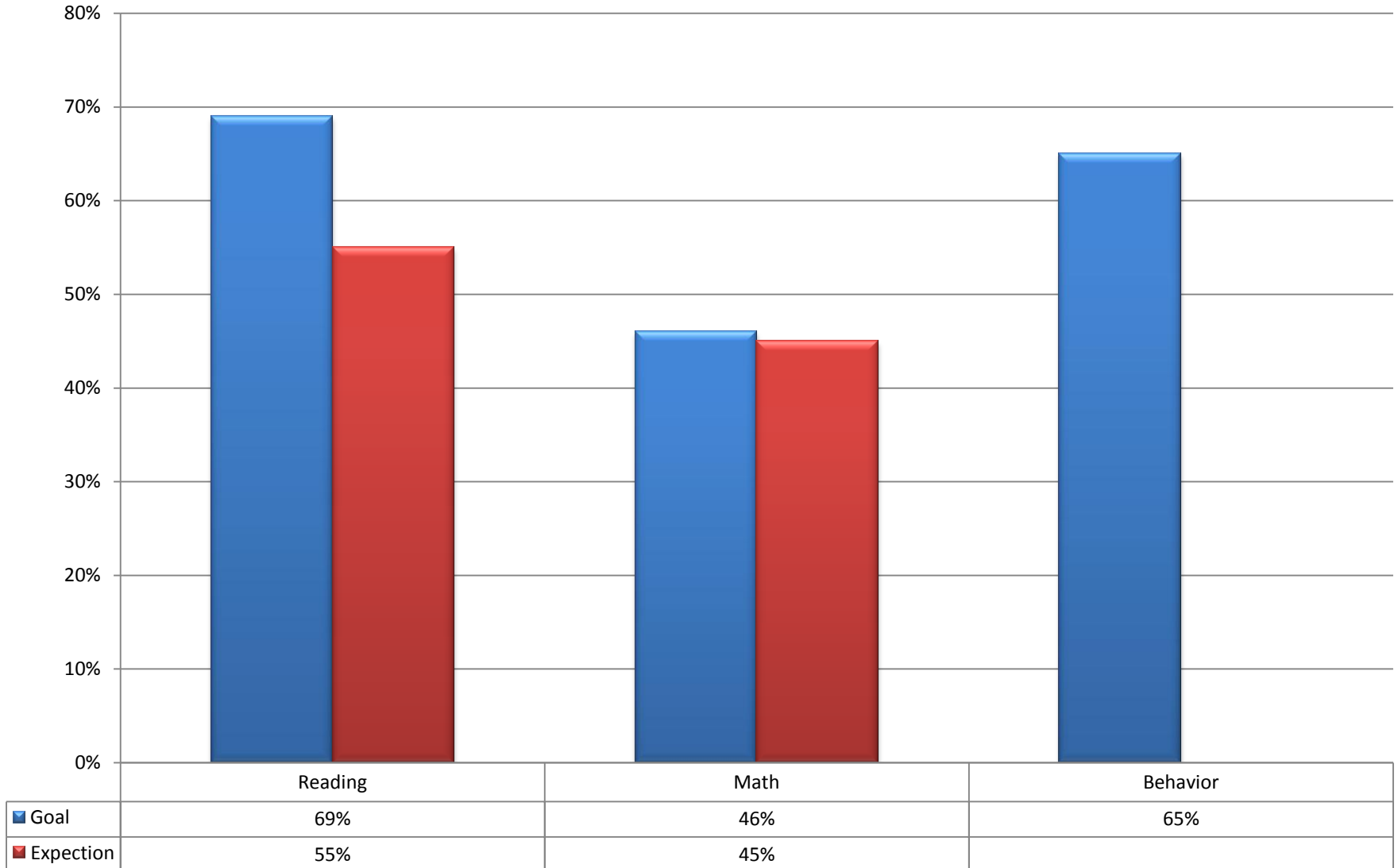
How Interventions Were Delivered



How Interventions Were Delivered by Type



Percent of Students Meeting Goal and Expectation



FAQ

- How do teachers find the time to problem solve and meet as PLC's?
- How is this different from what teachers used to do to meet student needs?
- How can parents be involved?