

The Going Gets Tough: State Capacity To Support Federal School Turnaround Principles

Caitlin Scott and Nora Ostler
AERA 2015

On September 23, 2011, who said:

“I am writing to offer you the opportunity to request flexibility.”

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Arne Duncan

Federal turnaround policy

OUT
NCLB



IN
Turnaround
principles



Federal turnaround policy

OUT–NCLB

- Identifying ALL schools below standards
- School choice for low-performing schools
- Other

IN–Turnaround principles



Federal turnaround policy

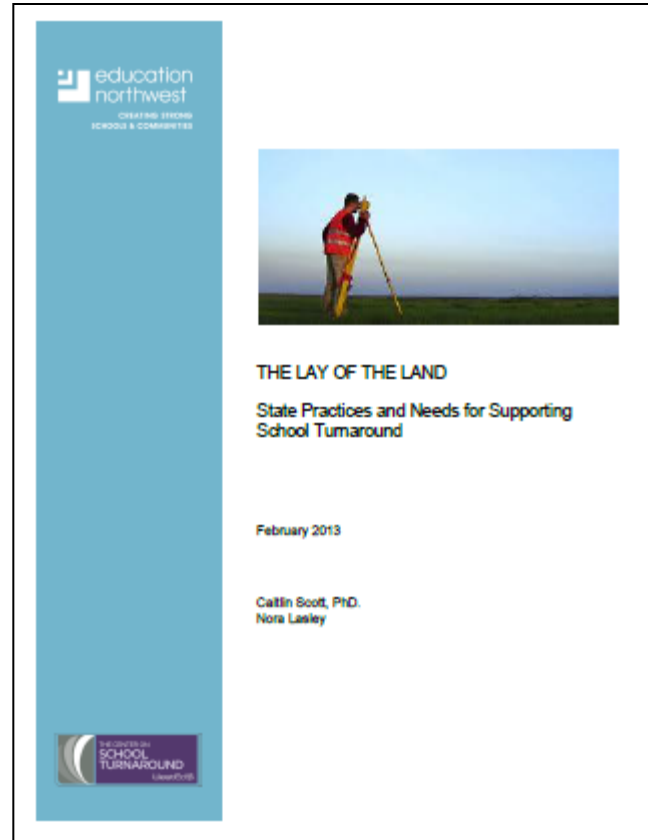
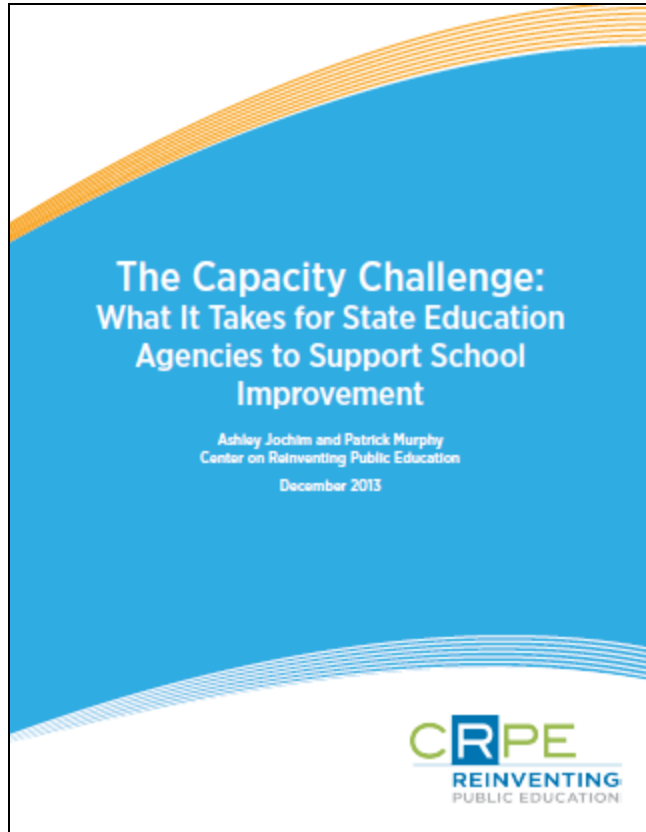
OUT–NCLB

- Identifying ALL schools below standards
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IN–Turnaround principles

1. Provide strong leadership
2. Ensure teachers are effective
3. Extend learning time
4. Use an effective curriculum
5. Use data to inform instruction
6. Establish a safe environment
7. Engage parents & community





Research questions

- To what degree do state leaders report their state supports federal school turnaround principles?
- Do leaders' reports differ from 2013 to 2014?

Data sources and methods

CST Annual State Survey

All 50 states, DC,
American Samoa,
BIE, Virgin Islands



Federal turnaround principles

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16 survey questions

Stages of implementation (Fixsen)

Exploration

Assessing options

Installation

Planning and preparing

Initial

First year

Full

Second year or beyond

In what stage is your state in *assisting or monitoring* district implementation of the following “turnaround principles”?

	Exploration (assessing options)	Installation (planning & preparing)	Initial implementation (first year)	Full implementation (second year or longer)
Providing principals operational flexibility	0	0	0	0
Replacing principal	0	0	0	0
Reviewing principal performance	0	0	0	0

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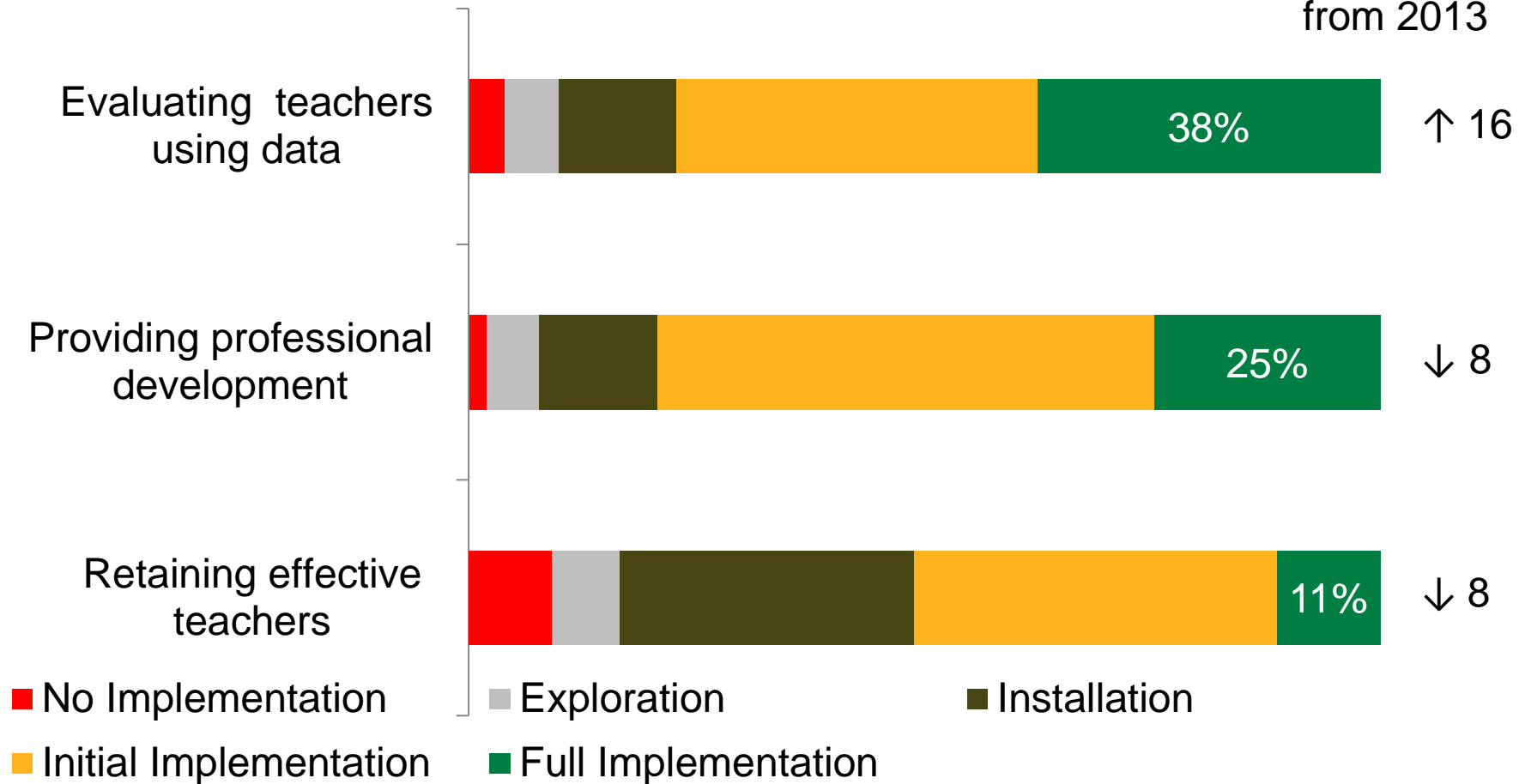
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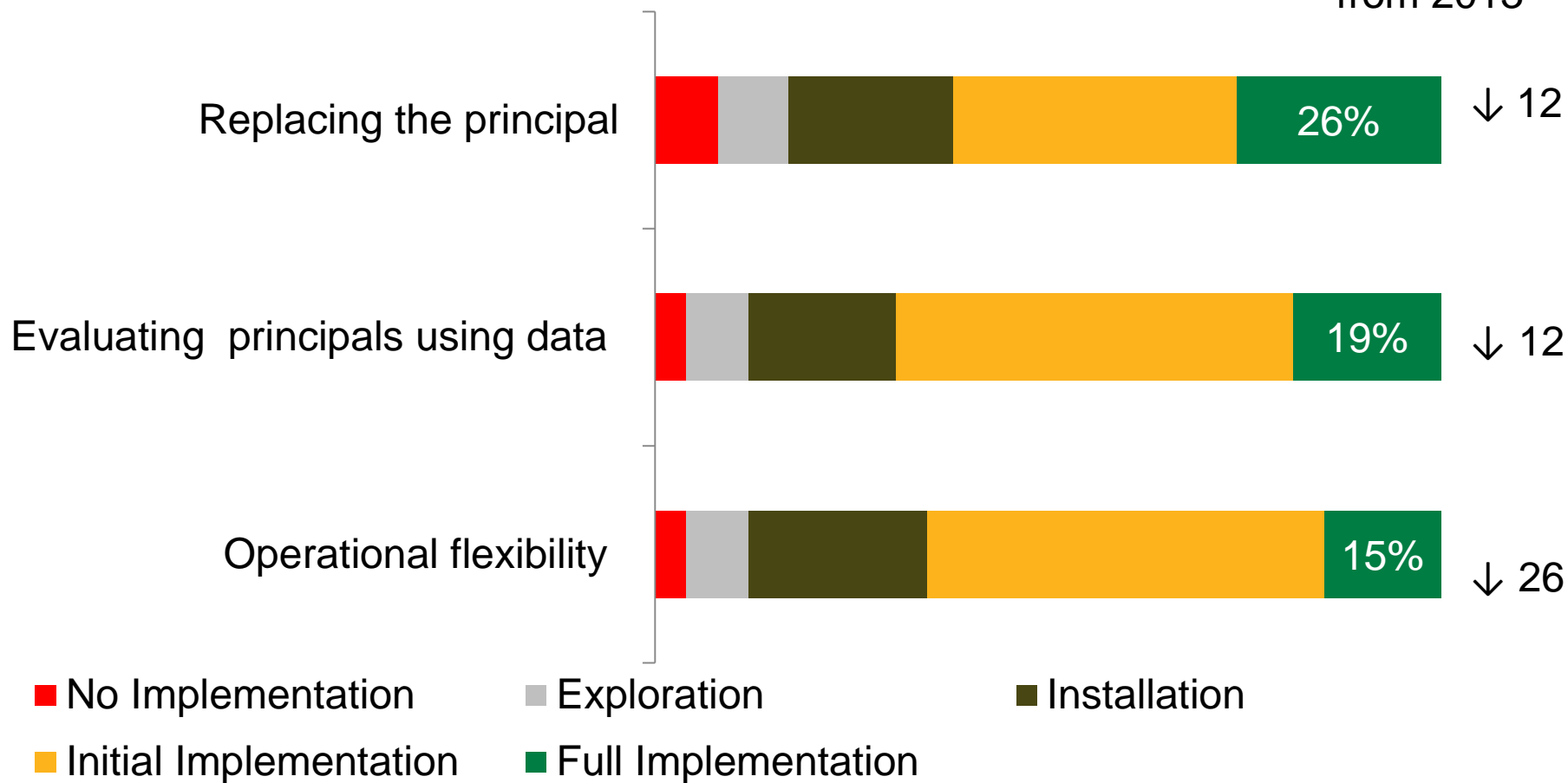
Leaders reporting full implementation in 2014

Percentage point change in "full implementation" from 2013



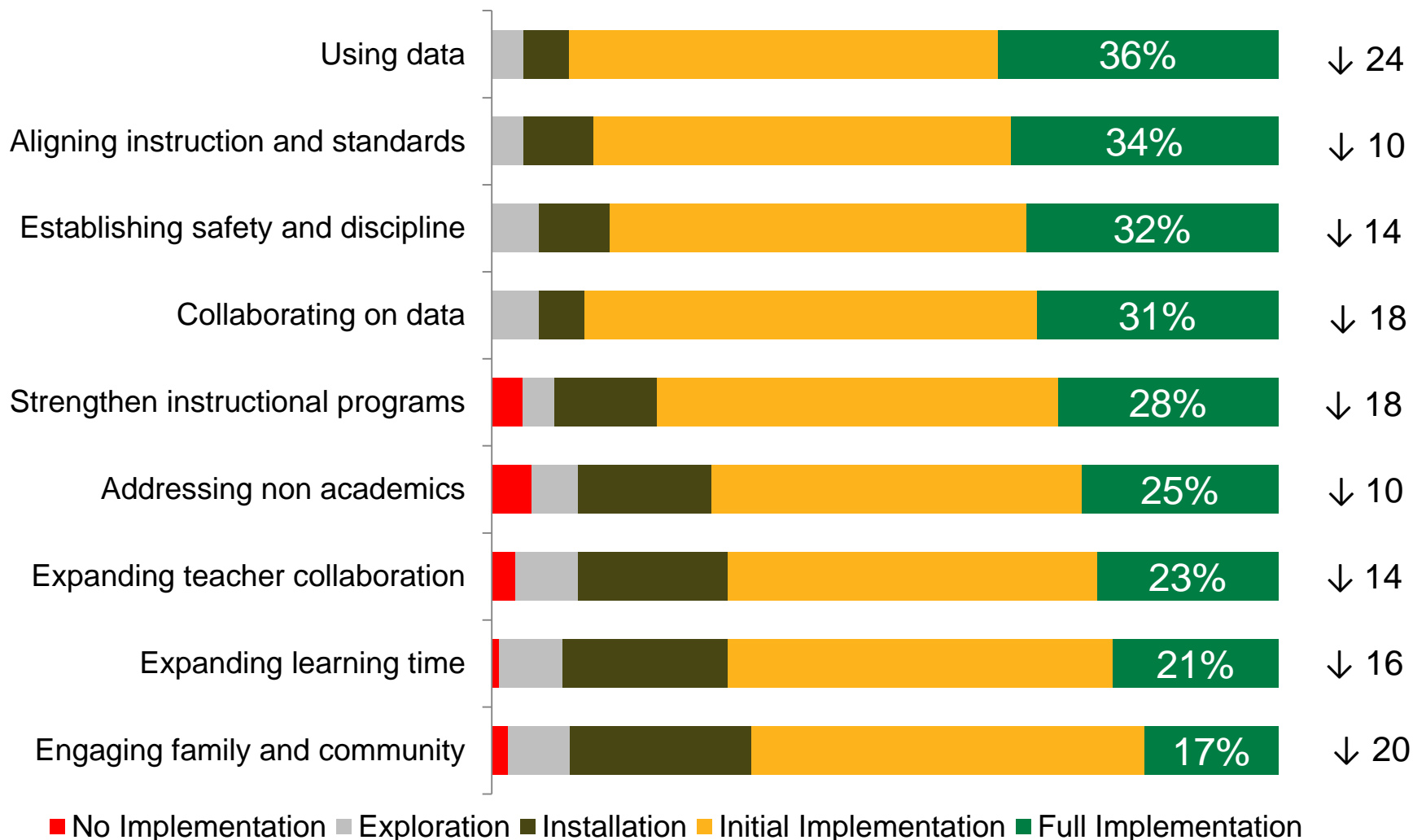
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Leaders reporting full implementation in 2014

Percentage point change in “full implementation” from 2013



Did state capacity change?

Or, did leader *perceptions*
of capacity change?

Proposed explanations

**CST and
OST observation**

OST observation

Proposed explanations

CST and OST observation

- 2013 survey conducted prior to monitoring
- 2014 survey conducted during monitoring
- So, perceptions changed due to monitoring

OST observation

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OST observation

The move to Common Core assessments and standards may make using data difficult

Significance

- 2014 was a tough year
- States need help supporting school turnaround
- Policymakers need to pay close attention to, and not overestimate, state capacity

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