# Interest-Based Professional Development

*by Theresa LeValley*

## Tool(s) used:
- Sustainability Compass
- Systems Iceberg
- Systems Mapping

## Purpose of using tool:
- Generating Questions
- Synthesizing Thinking
- Guiding Discussion
- Professional Development

### Overview:
To provide an overview of COMPASS education and provide 3 systems thinking tools for participants to learn and apply in their professional endeavours.

## Context of lesson/case study:
Interest-based professional development

## Participants (# and description):
19 participants: Administrators (Gen. Director, MS and ELEM principals), HS teachers, MS teachers, ELEM counselor, ELEM teachers and Technology Specialist

## Topic, Theme, or Key Understanding of unit/project:
To provide an overview of COMPASS education and relay 3 systems thinking tools to use in professional (or personal) endeavors.

## Length of unit/project:
1 hour

## Resources/materials & setting required:
Posters, Youtube video, Icebergs, Compass templates, school-related vocabulary, string for webbing, post-its, writing utensils, parking lot for exit tickets and reflection. Classroom, outside space.

## Lesson Plan/Description of the Project:

Compass Education Training: January, 2017
Facilitators: Ella Williams, Samantha Pfeffer, Theresa LeValley
Audience: Colleagues at Colegio Interamericano
Duration: 1 hour

### Learning objectives:
- 1. Define sustainability and systemic thinking
- 2. Apply three systemic thinking tools in the classroom/committee/leadership
- 3. Reflect and make a plan to move forward with the newly acquired skills

### Materials:
- Videos of paragliding class
- Posters
- School related words
- Post its
- Markers and pencils
- String
- Iceberg
- Compass templates

### Activities:
(Elia) 5 min. Go over COMPASS Education and the learning objectives from the posters. Define sustainability and systemic thinking on a piece of paper (10 sec.). Time you, stop, and switch papers: explain the other person’s definition... switch again. Put your definition on the posters.

(Theresa) Summaries: Explaining someone else’s thoughts allows you to give up control/ownership of your own thoughts and have a more profound connection to other’s perspectives.

(Sam) Reveal posters with the definitions.

Sustainability: Compass definition: A set of systems conditions that allows humans to flourish indefinitely. (Emphasis: not the right definition, just theirs). For example, some disagree with diction of humans

Systemic Thinking: a collaborative analysis that allows thinkers to examine ALL aspects in the situation that would affect the outcome in a positive or negative way. When individuals have a better understanding of systems, they are better able to identify the leverage points that lead to desired outcomes.

Compass Education

*Empower & Connect Learning Communities to Educate & Act for a Sustainable Future*
Reflection

Plusses:

Participant quotes: "The iceberg for problem solving, to solve problems and create new ideas in their team, webbing, the thinking, you need to know a system to make changes, everything is connected, we all have to collaborate, I can apply this at solving situations in my classroom and with a team." We used whole group instruction with 3 activity-based centers to rotate participants through and ended with a wrap up. It was a great introduction to systems thinking.

Challenges:

We would want a little more time for whole group summarization/reflection so we could have gone in a little more depth on the intro, and each activity. The web was difficult with approx. 5 people. Perhaps the order would make a difference to do the compass first, then web, then iceberg.

Suggestions for other practitioners and educators:

This lesson plan was an AMAZING introduction, but we would make the break out groups "stations" instead of centers or add more people to each group and do it in order: compass, web then iceberg. OR do compass and iceberg, switch, and then have the whole group do the web so people can visualize the connections.
Evidence and Resource:

Compass Education
- Empower & Connect Learning Communities to Educate & Act for a Sustainable Future -
Case study submitted by: Theresa LeValley, 2017, while serving as Academic Support Coordinator at Colegio Interamericano de Guatemala

Compass Education
- Empower & Connect Learning Communities to Educate & Act for a Sustainable Future -