The 5 Whys

* Identify problem(s) during Comprehensive Needs Assessment
* Brainstorm a possible cause of the problem, why the problem was not detected, and what systems failed
* Ask “WHY” until you determine the root cause (**Example** **Problem: Reading scores are decreasing in intermediate grades.** WHY? Because RTI procedures are not followed. WHY? Because the procedures haven’t been communicated effectively? WHY? Because staff has not all been trained. WHY? etc.)
* Come to consensus about the ultimate root cause

**Answer what caused the specific problem.**

**Problem**

**Answer what system(s) failed.**

**Answer why the problem wasn’t detected.**