Protocols are most powerful and effective when used within an ongoing professional learning community such as a Critical Friends Group® and facilitated by a skilled coach. To learn more about professional learning communities and seminars for new or experienced coaches, please visit the National School Reform Faculty website at www.nsrfharmony.org.

The cycle of inquiry to the left is displayed as a linear process. In actual implementation, schools and individual teachers can enter the cycle at any point, and often move back and forth between steps. Desired Student Outcomes and Theories of Learning are integral parts of the cycle of inquiry even though they are not displayed as a stage of the cycle. Refinement of these elements may happen at any stage of the cycle. In fact, these ideas should be revisited on a periodic basis in order to refine these elements.