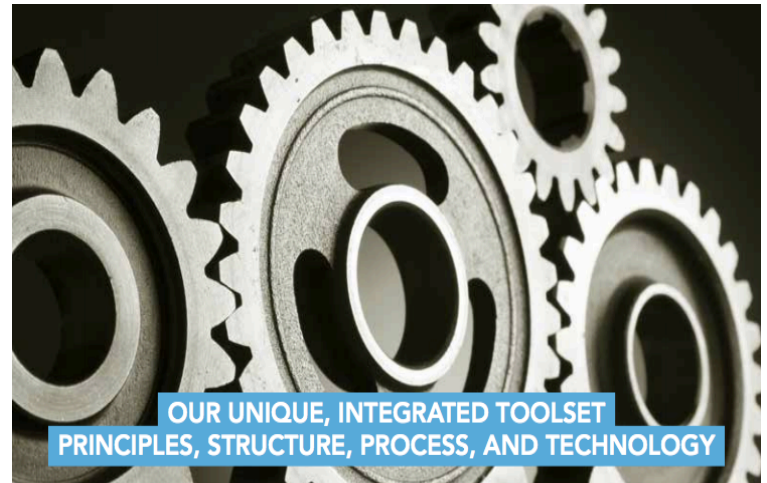


**Alignment USA** was created to assist communities in implementing the Alignment toolset in their own communities. Seventeen communities have now adopted the Alignment Toolset. The Alignment toolset was developed by Alignment Nashville to align community organizations and resources so that their coordinated support of the community's youth has a positive impact on public school success, children's health, and the success of our community as a whole. The toolset—Principles, Structure, Process, and Technology—are an integrated system and implementation as a system results in collective impact and strategic and resource alignment.

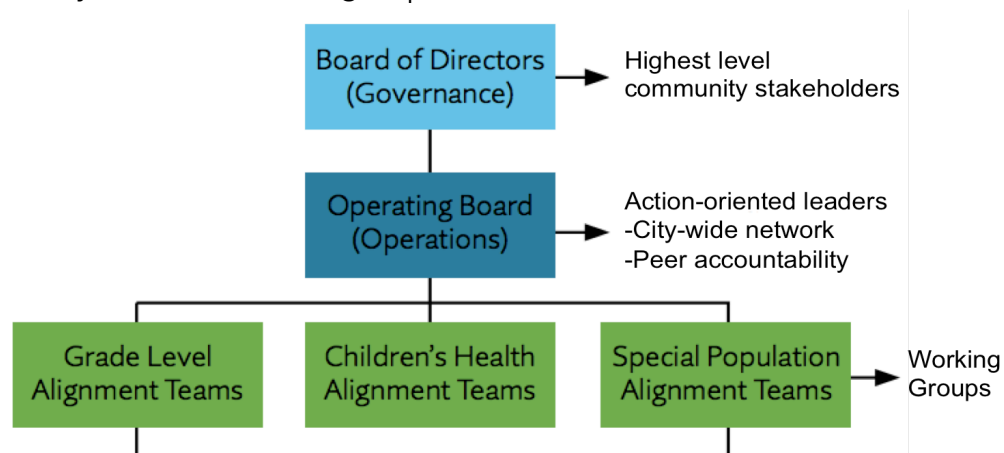


## Principles

Principles ensure that our work is focused on systemic change or change that involves new ways of applying resources to underlying causes. Systemic change happens when an outcome or goal has been attained; the result is either that the cause of the problem is eliminated, or programs, policies, funding streams and/or services are permanently altered to reduce the impact of the problem on a long-term basis. The Principle tool is critical to develop a working culture among many stakeholder groups.

## Structure

The Alignment Structure provides varying levels of involvement and leadership, engaging a wide range of stakeholders in different ways. This structure also provides sustainability, ensuring broad involvement that insulates the organization from changes in leadership in any one stakeholder group.



## Process

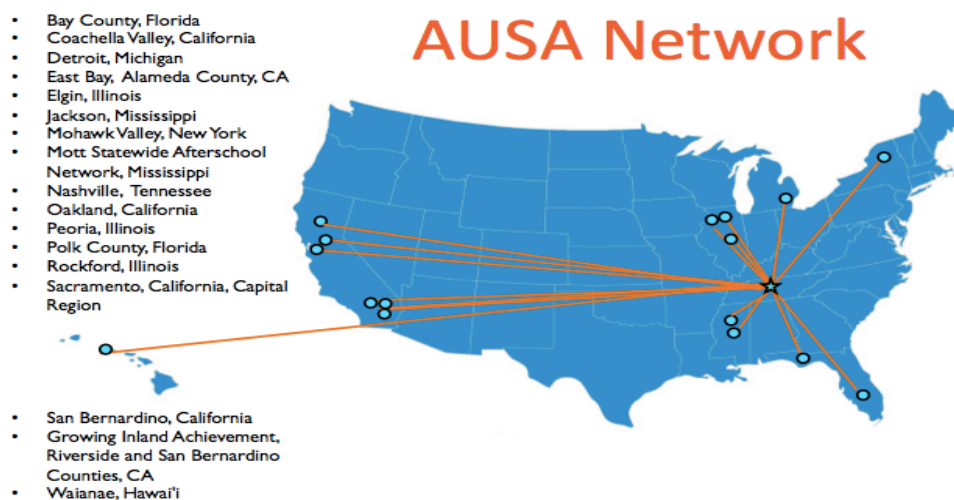
Alignment Nashville's design and implementation Process ensures that Alignment Teams are making progress toward systemic change. Alignment Nashville staff, who are facilitators and experts in the collaborative process, guide the A-Teams through each phase of the Process. Each A-Team first creates a Tactical Plan (1) to align to common goals to address a community issue, then uses the Invitation to Participate™ (2) process to align resources and engage the broader community in the effort. The A-Team provides oversight for implementation of the initiative (3) and gathers data to determine the impact and need for scale-up (4). Finally, if the effort has achieved the desired impact and systemic change, then it is institutionalized (5) either in the community or the school district.



## Technology

Community Coefficient (ComCo) is the Technology tool developed by Alignment to power the Principles, Structure, and Process. ComCo is an online portal that allows A-Team members, community partners, and Alignment staff to collaborate, track, measure and report collective progress, collect participation responses, capture knowledge of best practices, and more.

**Alignment USA (AUSA) is a national network of community/regional partnerships that are working to improve the quality of life for their citizens by using the Alignment system of tools to align resources around common outcomes.**



**The AUSA Network is facilitated by Alignment Nashville and now includes 17 communities/regions. AUSA Network membership benefits include:**

- Access to emerging practices and results from other communities using Alignment system to address complex issues
- Personalized technical assistance, coaching and support from expert practitioners during the startup and initial implementation
- Use of ComCoefficient (ComCo), the collaborative portal software developed specifically to power the Alignment system
- Invitation to attend the AUSA Network Conference, the annual gathering of Alignment practitioners from across the country
- Webinars addressing topics related to Alignment system implementation, emerging practices and results from Alignment communities
- Access to role-alike and cohort-based networking and learning opportunities, beginning with the Executive Directors' Network

**Services provided by AUSA to communities of the AUSA Network include:**

- Customized on-site staff support
- Virtual staff support by webinar/phone/email
- On site technology training and support
- Technology admin/user support by phone/email
- Use of Alignment portal software, including all enhancements and updates