The systems approach gives districts the leverage to address systemic issues by identifying the underlying causes and then implement structures and behaviors necessary to effect sustainable change across the district.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9I5YvLm5KXI

“A company’s leadership team can use systems thinking in order to kickoff a high-impact initiative by focusing on real root cause areas [structures/behaviors] rather than the symptoms of high-level problems.” — Uwe H. Kaufmann and Chew Jian Chieh, iSixSigma


The systems approach creates an atmosphere of accountability within schools and among schools all across the district, turning scattered instances of excellence into collective progress.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLLiwCNk6H0

WHY A SYSTEMS APPROACH?
“…while individual schools are indeed the center of change, the improvement of low-performing schools cannot be implemented at scale or sustained without redesign of the larger system in which they reside – the school district.”

— Steven J. Adamowski

“In the 1990s, we learned how to improve literacy and numeracy at the elementary level where the principal is the key player in leading reform and improving student performance.

“In the 2000s, school districts have embraced the development and support of the school principal as instructional leader (Fink & Resnick, 2001), but despite these good beginnings, the principal as instructional leader is too narrow a concept to carry the weight of the reforms that we need for the future.

“21st Century schools are emerging as complex organizations, which require a different way of thinking and doing that is more connected and community oriented.”

“To manage schools as ‘complex organizations,’ we need leaders who can engage in systems thinking to create a fundamental transformation in the learning cultures of schools and the sustainability of the teaching and learning profession itself.”

http://www.slideshare.net/pittmajc/the-future-of-21st-century-global-education

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