



Kaizen Applied to Education

Kaizen simply means “change for better.” Applied to education, kaizen typically means measures for implementing continuous improvement based on common sense, self-discipline, order, and economy.

The history of Kaizen begins after World War II in Japan when Toyota first implemented quality circles in its production process. “A quality circle is a group of workers performing the same or similar work, who meet regularly to identify, analyze, and solve work-related problems” (What is Kaizen?, 2021).

10 Principles of Kaizen

1. Improve everything continuously.
2. Abolish old, traditional concepts.
3. Accept no excuses and make things happen.
4. Say no to the status quo of implementing new methods and assuming how they will work.
5. If something is wrong, correct it.
6. Empower everyone to take part in problem-solving.
7. Get information and opinions from multiple people.
8. Before making decisions, ask “why” questions five times to get to the root cause.
9. Be economical. Save money through small improvements to spend the saved money on further improvements.

10. Remember that improvement has not limits. Never stop trying to improve.

If you compare this list to the goals of continuous school improvement, you will note many similarities. We are striving for continuous improvement that involves change to the status quo. The context for change is a collaborative culture that involves everyone in creating and implementing a shared vision. And we never stop trying to improve!

Reference

What is Kaizen? (2021, June 29). Retrieved from <https://www.kanbanchi.com/what-is-kaizen>.