



**THE HEART
OF IT ALL™**

Ohio.org

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce

Jo Hannah Ward

Administrator, Office for Exceptional Children

Unicorn/ Superpower



GRATITUDE

Convening /Sharing



Growth and Impact

SPDG PAST



SPDG NATIONAL MEETING 2012 GROUP MEET UP



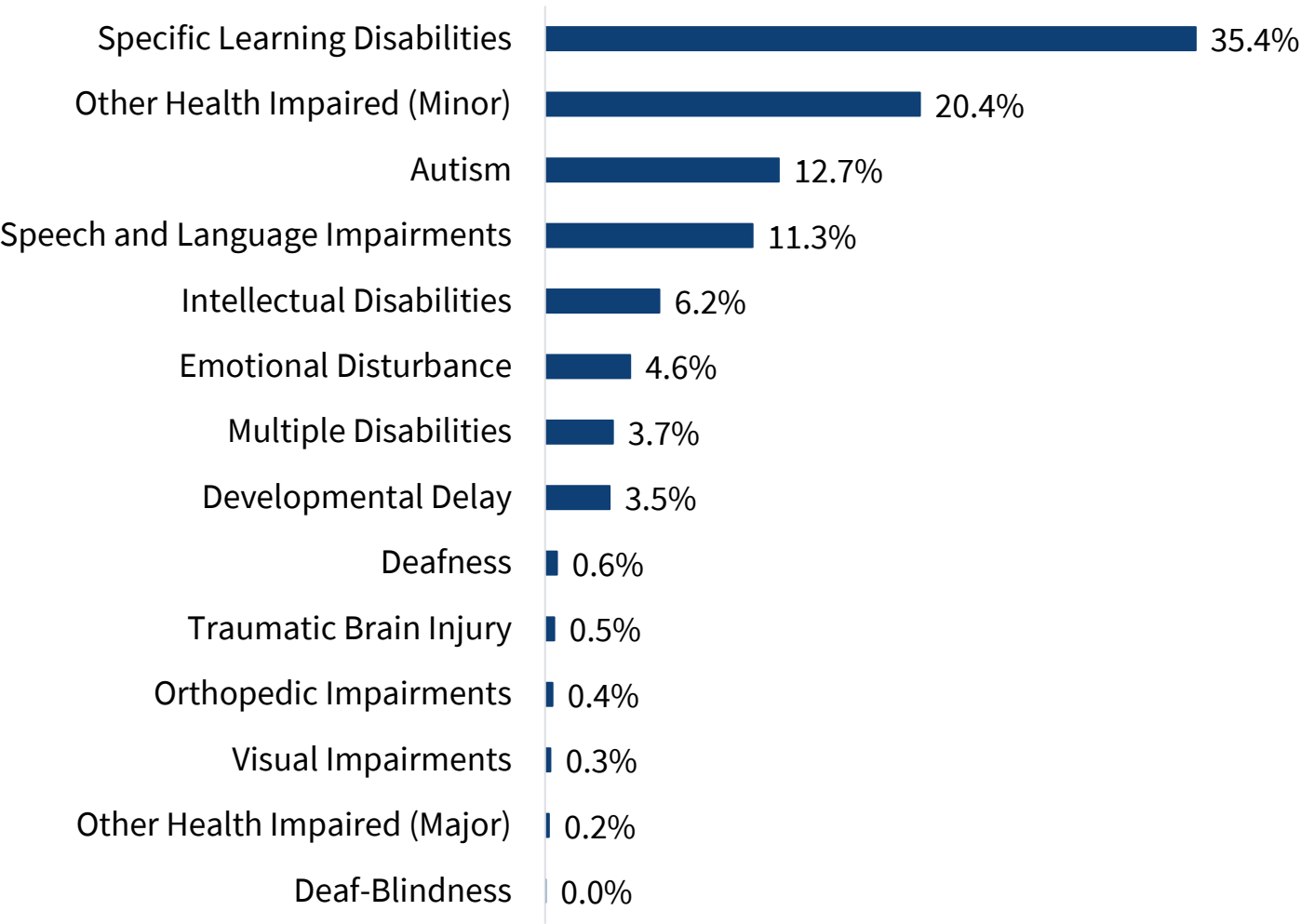
OHIO'S STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Ohio's Student Enrollment by Disability

Category

2023-2024



Special Education Indicators

Essential Questions

Are young children with disabilities entering kindergarten ready to learn?

- Indicator 6: Preschool Educational Environments
- Indicator 7: Preschool Outcomes
- **Indicator 12: Early Childhood Transition from Part C to Part B**

Are children with disabilities achieving at high levels?

- **Alternate Assessment Participation**
- Indicator 3: Assessment Participation and Performance

To what extent do students with disabilities have access to the general education environment?

- **Indicator 4: Suspension and Expulsion**
- Indicator 5: School-age Educational Environments

Are youth with disabilities prepared for life, work and postsecondary education?

- **Indicator 1: Graduation**
- **Indicator 2: Dropout**
- **Indicator 13: Secondary Transition**
- Indicator 14: Postsecondary Outcomes

Does the district implement IDEA to improve services and results for children with disabilities?

- **Indicator 8: Facilitated Parent Involvement**
- **Indicator 11: Initial Evaluation Timelines**
- Indicator 18: General Supervision (Timely Correction of Noncompliance)
- Valid and Reliable Data

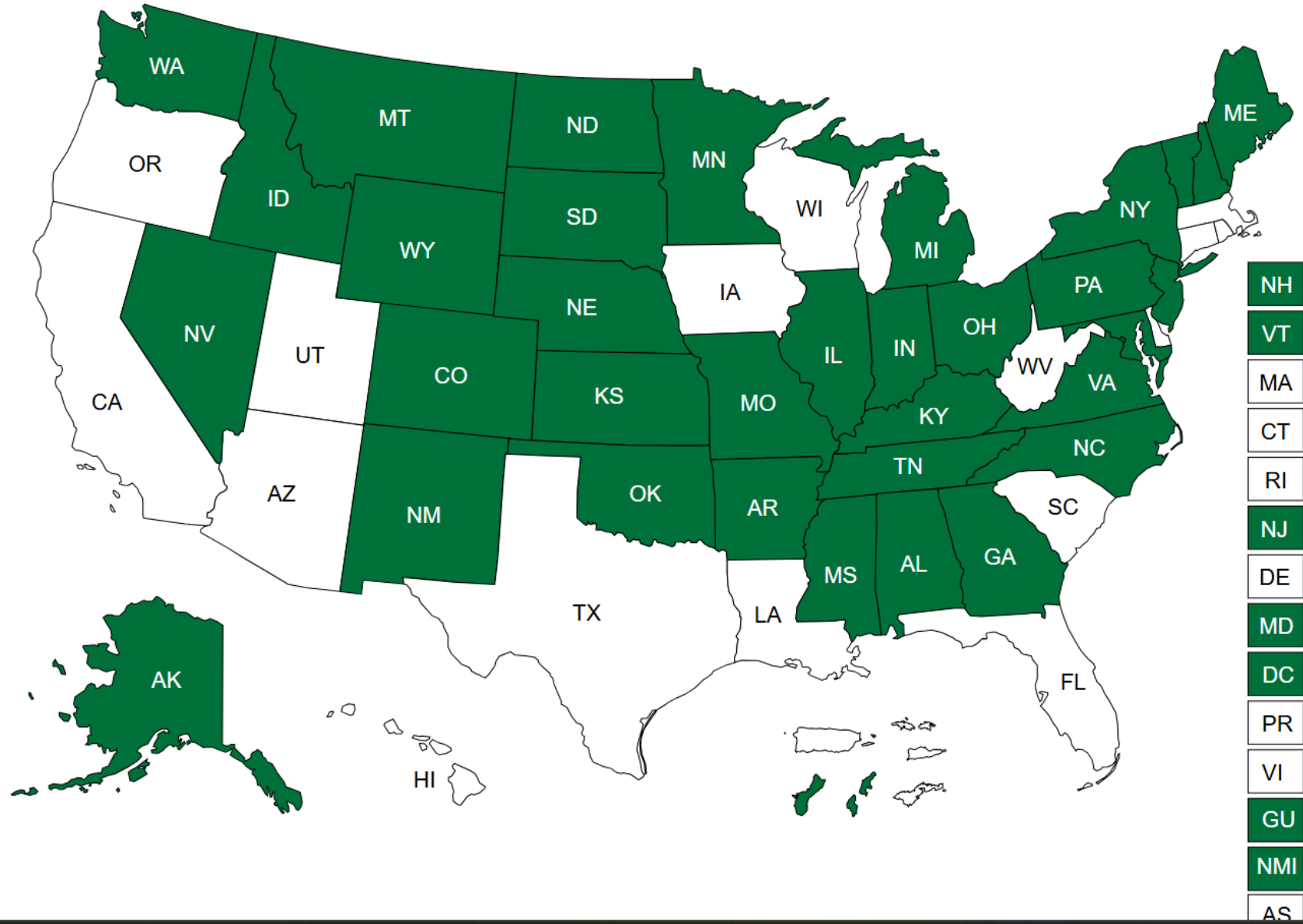
Are children receiving equitable services and supports?

- **Disproportionate Representation (Indicators 9 and 10)**
- **Disproportionality: Identification of Students with Disabilities**
- **Disproportionality: Placement of Students with Disabilities**
- **Disproportionality: Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

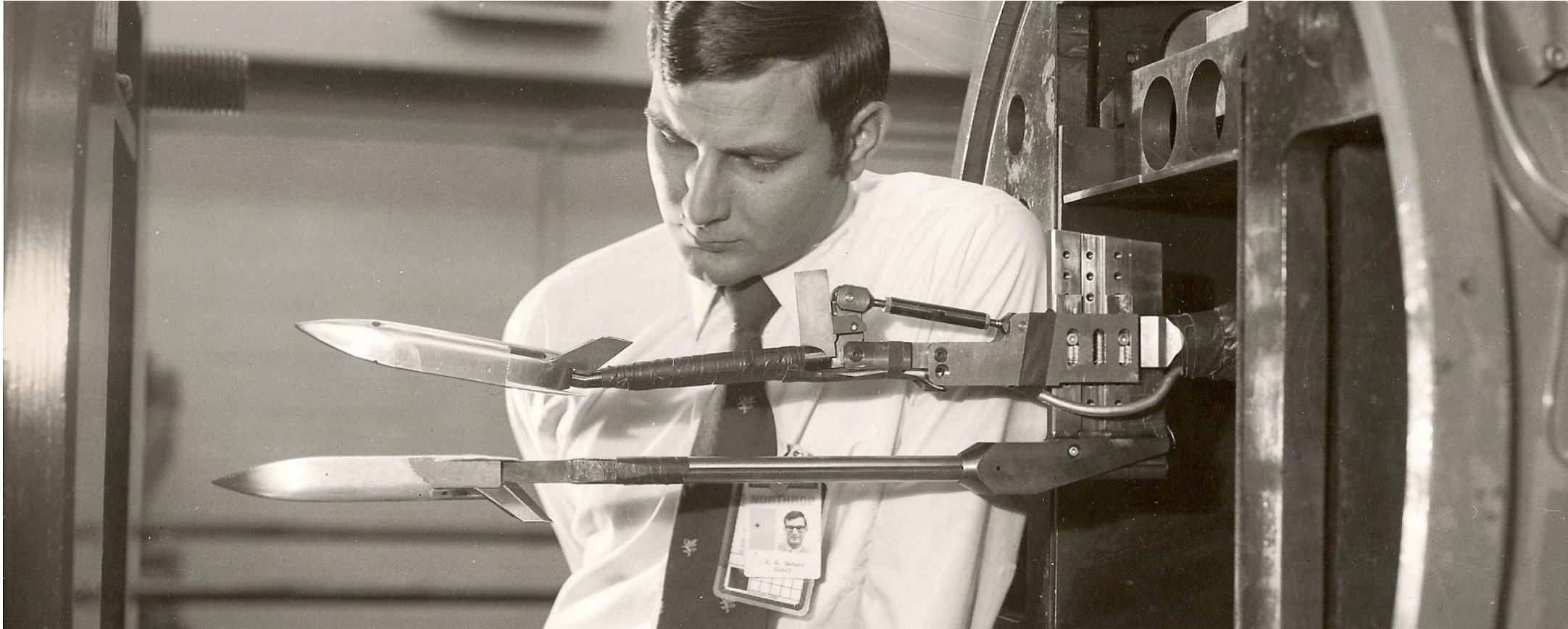
SPDG PRESENT

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

See this map to view our current or planned projects or [view our site services & programs](#).



COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION



**Long term
benefit for
more people**



PROGRAM MEASURES AND SUCCESS

SigNetwork



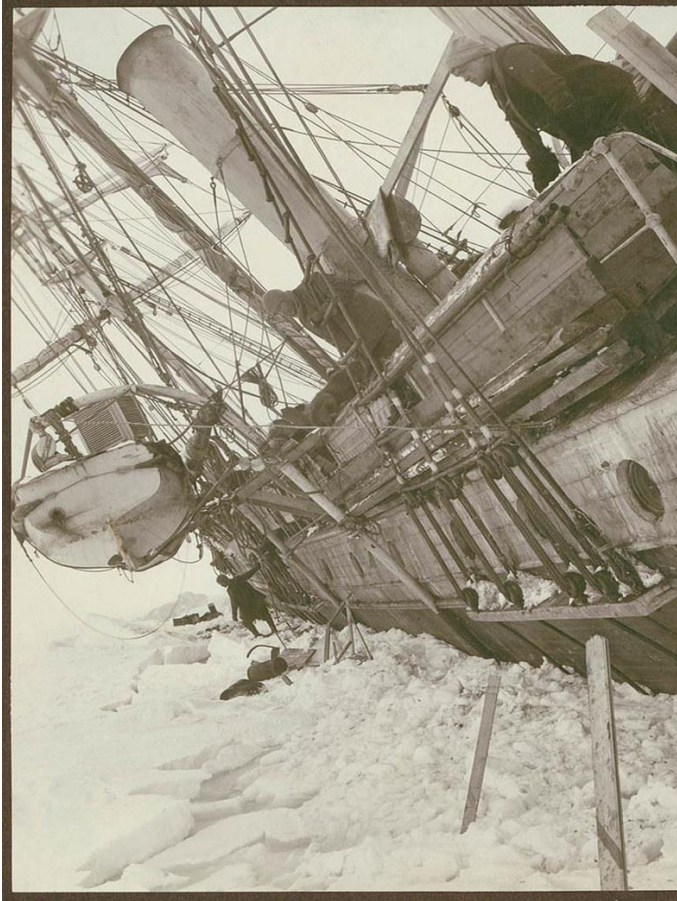
SPDG FUTURE

LEADERSHIP

Why it matters



TRAITS OF LEADERSHIP



Leadership Lessons from Shackleton

1. Lead with Clarity and Honesty

2. Model Commitment and Courage

3. Celebrate Small Wins



Leadership Lessons from Shackleton

4. Cultivate a Culture of Mutual Support

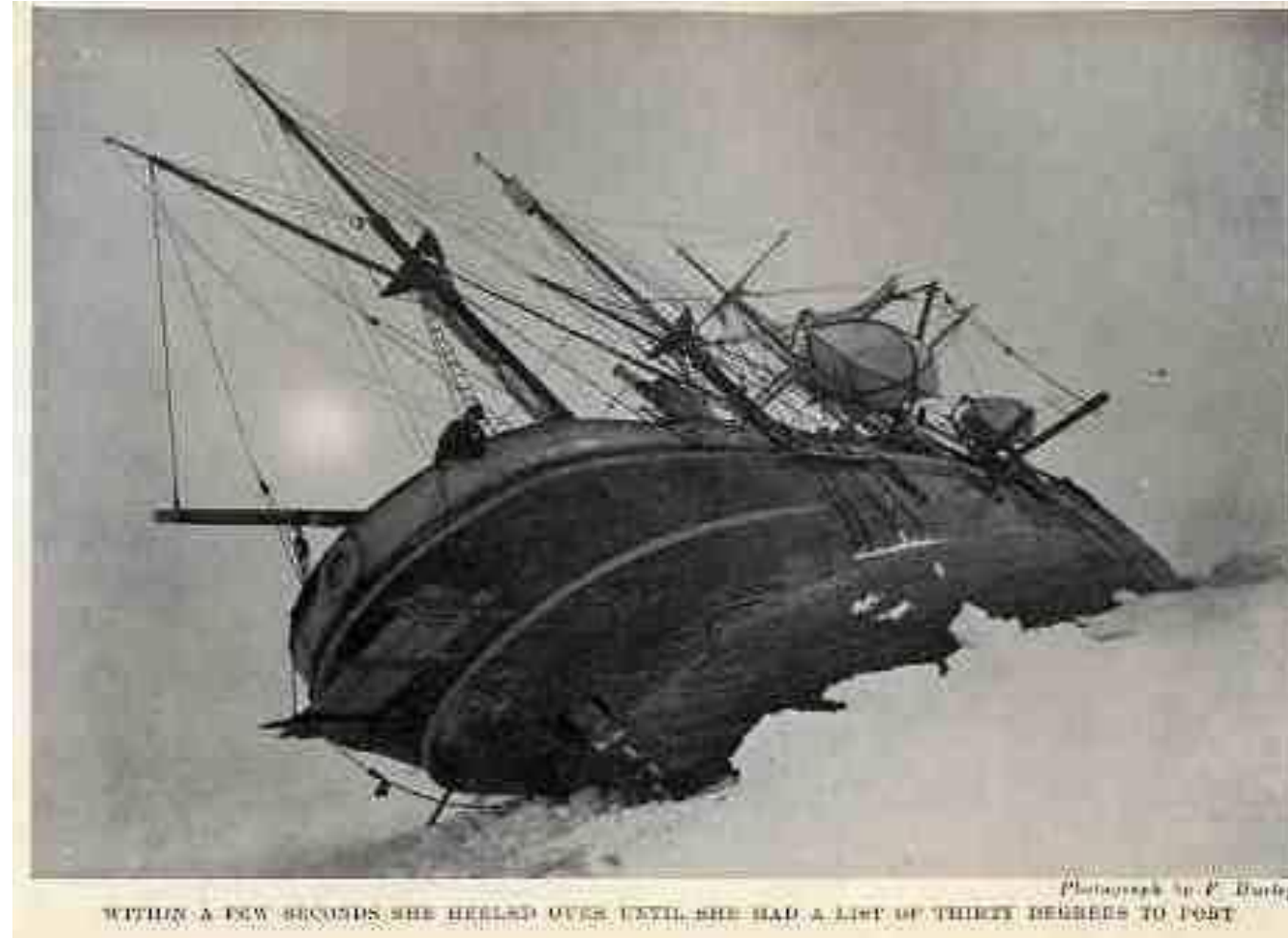
5. Adapt and Reframe Goals



Leadership Lessons from Shackleton

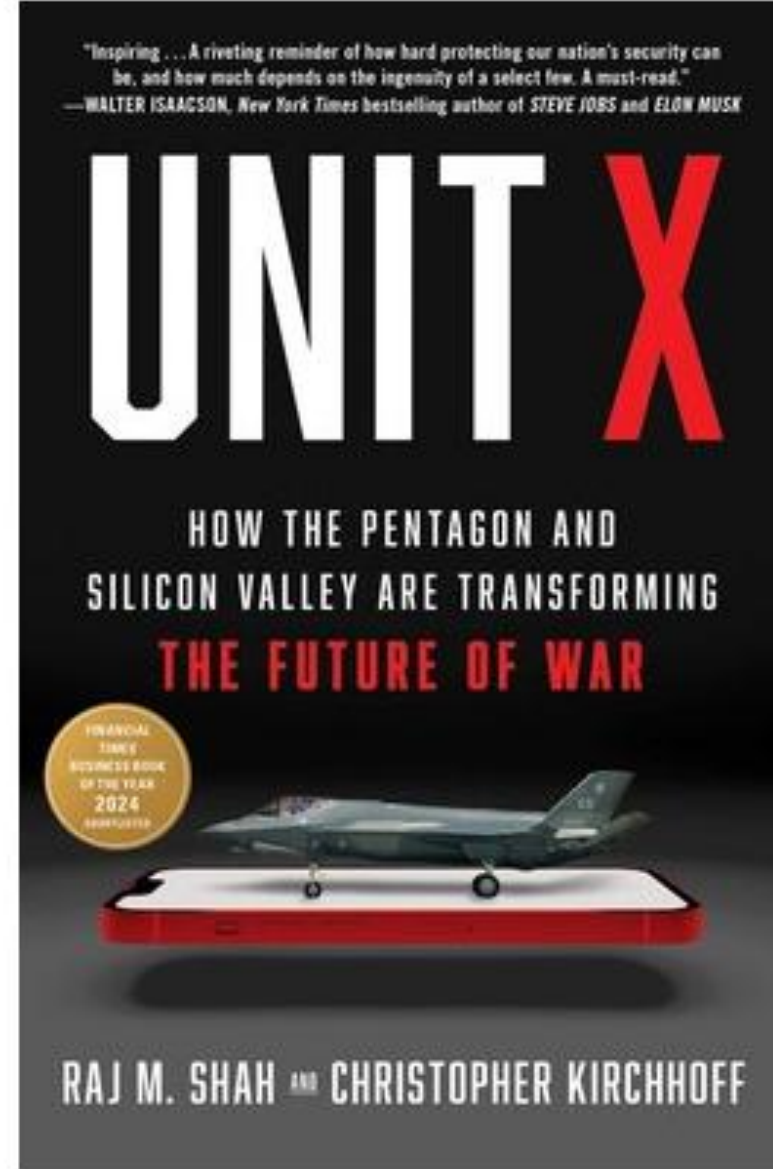
6. Stay Resilient Through Setbacks

7. Make Decisions with Empathy and Strategy



UNIT X

FIXING THE GONKULATOR



FIXING THE GONKULATOR



UPDATED AND OPERATIONAL

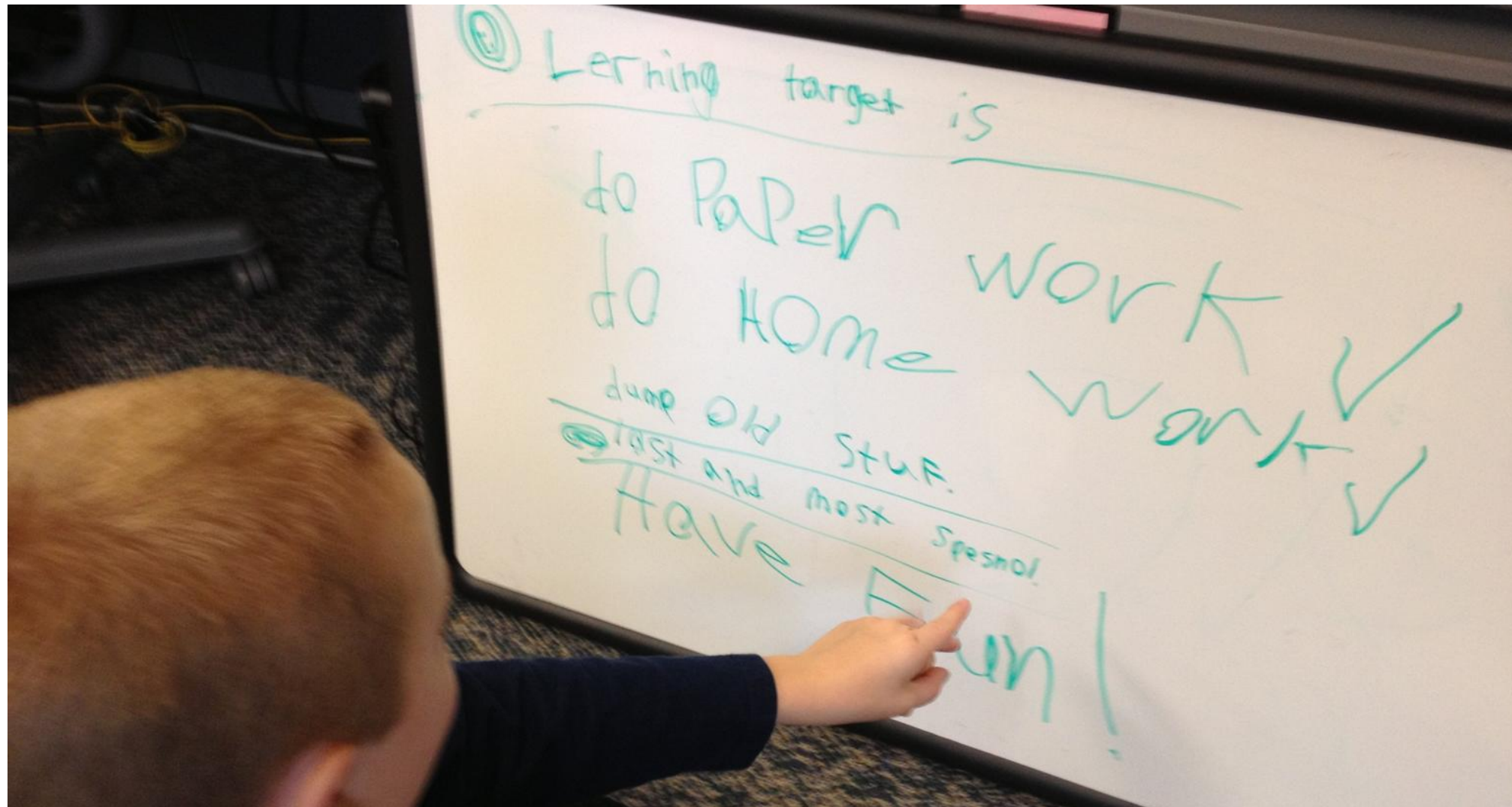


LESSONS FOR EDUCATION

Listen to the Frontline – Teachers and coordinators know where systems break

Build Fast, Iterate Often – Don't wait for perfection; prototype solutions

Challenge Legacy Thinking – Just because it's always been done doesn't mean it should be



① Learning target is

do Paper work ✓
do Home work ✓

dump old stuff.
dump old stuff and most special

Have Fun!



Theme	Shackleton – Endurance	Unit X – Pentagon & Silicon Valley
Mission Focus	Reframed success from conquest to survival; prioritized human life over original goals.	Reframed defense innovation from rigid procurement to agile, tech-driven transformation.
Adaptability	Pivoted constantly—abandoning ship, rerouting plans, improvising shelters and routes.	Embraced Silicon Valley’s iterative mindset to disrupt entrenched bureaucratic systems.
Team Selection & Culture	Chose crew for temperament and cohesion; fostered mutual care and morale.	Built Unitx with cross-functional teams from tech and defense; emphasized collaboration over hierarchy.
Leadership Style	Led from the front, shared hardships, modeled emotional resilience.	Advocated for decentralized leadership and empowered innovators to challenge norms.
Innovation Under Pressure	Used creativity to solve life-threatening problems (e.g., navigating ice floes).	Used new tech (like GPS on a pocket PC) to solve battlefield inefficiencies.

Dimension	Shackleton – The Survivalist 	Unit X – The Disruptor 
Core Mission	Preserve life, adapt to nature	Transform systems, challenge norms
Leadership Style	Empathetic, hands-on, morale-driven	Strategic, decentralized, innovation-focused
Team Culture	Cohesion, mutual care, shared hardship	Cross-functional, agile, mission-driven
Decision-Making	Based on empathy, ethics, survival	Based on data, speed, and strategic disruption
Innovation Approach	Improvised tools, creative survival	Tech infusion, iterative prototyping
Resistance Encountered	Natural forces, isolation	Bureaucracy, institutional inertia
Ethical Lens	Human life above all	Responsible innovation in warfare context

THE ROAD AHEAD

To see where we are going, we must look back and see where we have been.....





Department of Education & Workforce

EDUCATION.OHIO.GOV