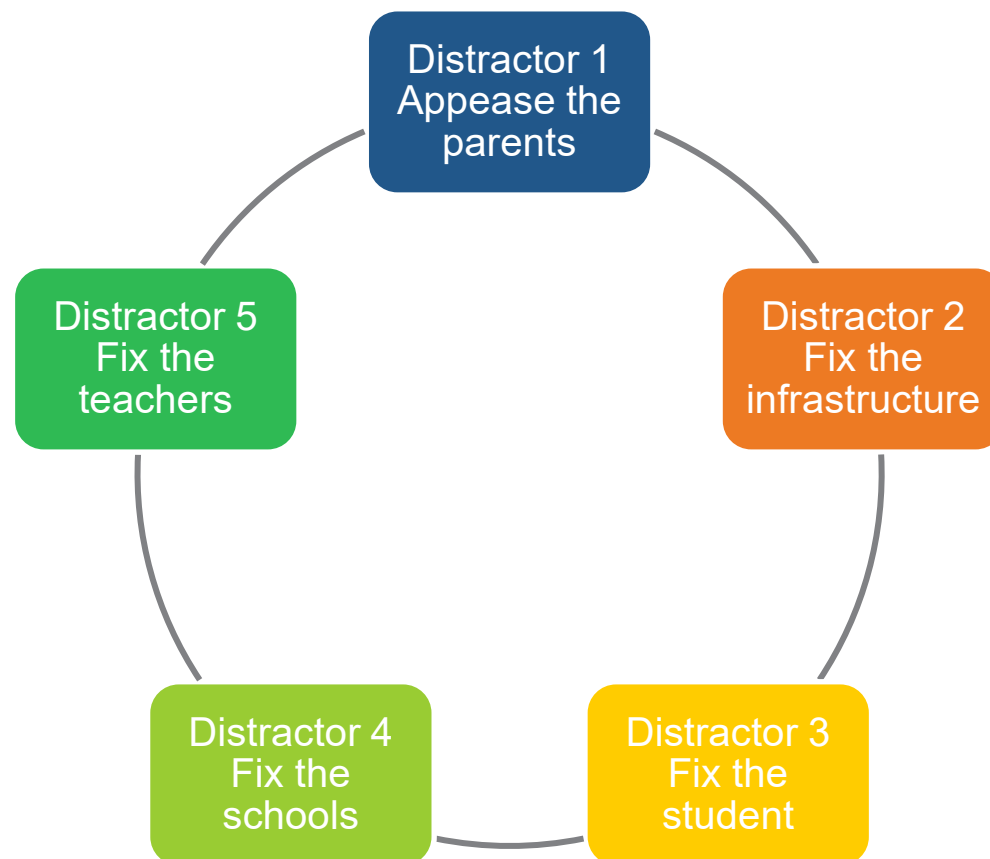


Activity 4: Discussion


John Hattie (2015) has compiled a list of five popular education reform approaches that he calls distractions from the real problem in education¹:





John Hattie argues, 'The greatest influence on student progression in learning is having highly expert, inspired and passionate teachers and school leaders working together to maximise the effect of their teaching on all students in their care. There is a major role for school leaders: to harness the expertise in their schools and to lead successful transformations. There is also a role for the system: to provide the support, time and resources for this to happen. Putting all three of these (teachers, leaders, system) together gets at the heart of collaborative expertise.'²

In a small group, discuss the following:

1. Many schools base their strategic goals and focus improvement on the areas Hattie describes as 'distractors' (see figure above). He argues these are fixes that don't focus on the classroom level and therefore have minimal effect on improving student learning.
2. Hattie identifies expert teachers as the key to improving student outcomes. Given the mathematics and science data you've examined today, and the considerations raised for targeting improvements, discuss what actions or next steps your school could take to improve student outcomes.

 What do you **SEE**?

 What does it make you **THINK**?

 What do you **WONDER**?

¹ Hattie, J 2015, *What Doesn't Work in Education: The politics of distraction*, London: Pearson

² Hattie, J 2015, *What Works Best in Education: The politics of collaborative expertise*, London: Pearson