

SYSTEMS THINKING IOI

System (n): a set of interconnected parts that together produce an outcome – often one we didn't intend

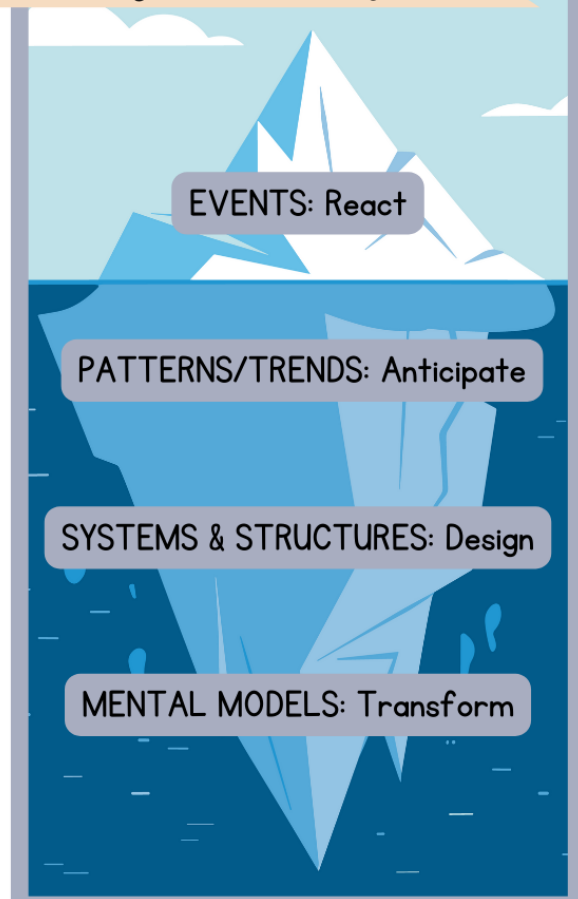
What Is Systems Thinking?

- A framework for understanding complex systems
- Focuses on interrelationships and influences over time, not isolated events
- Emphasizes the whole system and how components interact to create outcomes

Why Systems Thinking?

- Departments & functions in organizations can be highly interdependent
- Problems often stem from poorly understood relationships
- Effective solutions require addressing root causes, not just symptoms

The Systems Iceberg



Linear (Traditional) Thinking vs Systems Thinking

Traditional Linear Thinking (Isolated, Reductionist)	Systemic Thinking (Holistic, Integrated)
Breaks problems into separate parts	Sees the organization as a whole
Focuses on direct cause and effect	Focuses on relationships, patterns, and context
Simplistic, short-term analysis	Emphasizes feedback loops and long-term effects
Treats symptoms instead of root causes	Highlights unintended consequences of decisions