

Glossary*

Term	Definition
activities	In a logic model, the components of a program that are intended to lead to desired outcomes; can include initiatives, programs, services, events, products, etc.
assumptions	In a logic model, the beliefs about participants, staff, the program, and how change or improvement may be realized.
impacts	In a logic model, the desired long-term outcomes of the implementation of a program's strategies and activities, usually dependent on conditions beyond the scope of the program; often the inverse of the problem statement.
inputs	In a logic model, the tangible or intangible resources or other contributions that are used to support a program and its associated activities; synonymous with "resources."
linear research agenda	A research agenda that specifies research questions and is sequential in nature—the research follows a series of steps to the goal and generally increases in rigor.
logic model	A graphic representation of the relationship among a program's or policy's inputs, strategies, short-term outcomes, and long-term outcomes.
Making an Impact study	A study using rigorous methods (for example, randomized controlled trial) to examine questions about impact and to support causal inferences, such as the effectiveness of a particular policy, program, or practice.
Making Connections study	A correlational study that examines the relationship between two or more variables but does not support causal inference; usually includes secondary data analysis.
Modified Focus Four process	A group process to narrow or prioritize a list through four steps: brainstorm, clarify, prioritize, and select.
outcomes	In a logic model, the intended results of a program's activities and strategies.
outcomes, long term	In a logic model, the intended distant and measurable results of a program's strategies and activities.
outcomes, short term	In a logic model, the most immediate and measurable results that can be attributed to a program's strategies and activities.

* Glossary terms will be used during both the November 2017 Logic Model workshop and during the March 2018 Research Agenda workshop. Not all terms will be explicitly referenced during the workshops, but are offered here for your reference.

Research Agenda Workshop

problem statement	In a logic model, the problem or challenge that the program or policy is designed to address.
REL	Regional Educational Laboratory: Funded by the U.S. Department of Education to serve 10 designated regions in the country. RELs work in partnership with educators and policymakers to develop and use research that improves academic outcomes for students.
researchable question	A research question that is reasonable, appropriate, answerable, and measurable.
research agenda	A road map or framework that guides the direction and development of new research questions and research projects based on partnership priorities.
resources	In a logic model, the time, money, people, partnerships, or assets that are necessary for carrying out a program; synonymous with “inputs.”
strategies	In a logic model, combinations of activities that bundle or cluster together that are anticipated to lead to desired outcomes.
TCTS	Training, Coaching, and Technical Support: a category of REL activities designed to increase the capacity of individuals and/or organizations through extensive and customized support. Example TCTS activities include workshops, coaching and consultation, Ask A REL research searches, and informal Every Student Succeeds Act evidence reviews.
theory of change	A theory that drives a program or policy and makes explicit any assumptions about both the resources at the disposal of the program/policy and the rationale behind the effort.
topical research agenda	A research agenda that is thematic in nature—the research questions and projects are focused on one topic or issue.
What’s Happening study	A descriptive study that examine baselines, trends, and characteristics of individuals, groups, or programs; usually includes secondary data analysis and/or records review conducted via descriptive statistics.
What’s Known study	A descriptive study on literature reviews and other previously conducted research (for example, meta-analysis).