

# ESSA tiers of evidence webinar series

## Session 4: Context matters

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# Objectives for today's webinar

1. Review prior sessions and address any unanswered questions.
2. Discuss the role of context in choosing evidence-based practices.
3. Discuss the components of an implementation plan.

# Today's facilitators



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# Agenda

- Review prior sessions
- Context matters: Meeting local priorities
- Planning for implementation

Where have we been?



# Where have we been?



Provided an overview of the criteria for the ESSA evidence tiers, why we should care about evidence, and how ESSA is being used in MI Strategy Bank



Examined the ESSA resources on the WWC website, and discussed future ESSA-related enhancements to the WWC

Examined the REL Midwest ESSA crosswalk with several evidence-based clearinghouses



Discussed ESSA tiers 3 and 4 in detail and how to identify findings and strategies that meet these criteria

# Aligning your context



# Context: Evaluating local fit

Up to this point, *context* has referred to

## 1. Sample/population

1. Does the sample in the studies used to determine the ESSA rating overlap with your district's population of students?
  1. Examples: relevant student characteristics (English learners, students at risk), demographic distribution, grade range, socioeconomic distribution

## 2. Setting

1. Does the setting in these studies overlap with your district's setting?
  1. Examples: school size, urbanicity or locale, region of the country

Considering these factors is necessary to determine whether the outcome of a practice meets tier 1, 2, or 3 for a particular context.

# Activity



1. Have your character card ready.
2. Go to [ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/FWW](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/FWW).
3. Identify a strategy with an outcome that meets the needs of your context
4. Record on your character card the selected strategy and your reasons why the outcome meets requirements and what tier of evidence it meets.
5. Share with the group why you chose this intervention.

# Context matters: Meeting local priorities



# Questions to ask

1. What resources are required for implementation?
2. Will the potential benefit of implementing justify the cost?
3. What is the local capacity for implementation?
4. How does this strategy fit with the larger strategic goals or existing efforts in the district?
5. How will the strategy be sustained over time?

Source: U.S. Department of Education. (2016). *Non-regulatory guidance: Using evidence to strengthen education investments*. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/guidanceuseinvestment.pdf>

# What resources are required to implement this strategy?

Training?

Dedicated time during the school day?

Dedicated facilities?

Outside contractors?

Community or university partnership?

# Will the potential benefit of implementing justify the cost?

What is the cost of the intervention?

How large are the effects of this strategy, and are we likely to see the same impacts in our district?

Is the intervention worth the cost? Are there other more cost effective strategies out there that could accomplish the same goals?

# What is the local capacity for implementation?

Is there enough funding allocated to implement?

Do staff at the schools and district have the skills needed to implement?

Is there buy-in from staff and teachers? From administration? From parents and community members?

Is the strategy culturally appropriate and equitable?

How does this strategy fit with the larger strategic goals or existing efforts in the district?

Is there a risk of *initiative fatigue*?

Are there other initiatives or policies that would prevent the strategy from being implemented as intended?

Are all the right parties involved and aware of the plan?

# How will the strategy be sustained over time?

Is there a system in place to bring new staff up to speed?

Is there a plan to re-evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy?

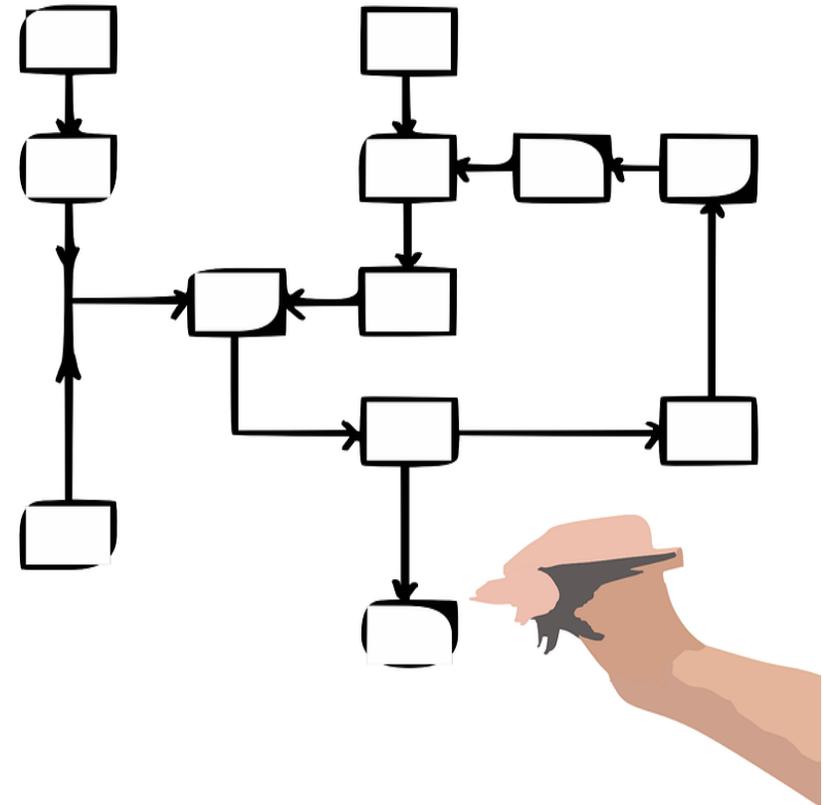
What is the process for budget allocations, and how will the process affect the sustainability of the strategy?

# Planning for strategy implementation



# Creating an implementation plan

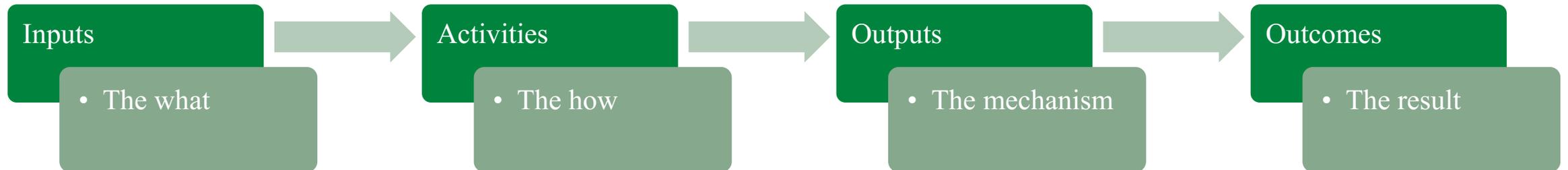
- Documenting an implementation plan sets up stakeholders for success.
- An implementation plan guards against “building the plane while flying it.”



# Components of an implementation plan

## Logic model

- Articulates *how* the strategy is likely to improve the outcome of interest



# Components of an implementation plan

## Goals and objectives

- Well defined and measurable (How will formative and summative goals be measured?)

## Roles and responsibilities

- Clearly articulated and defined roles for all stakeholders (not just for those stakeholders responsible for implementation)

## Timelines

- Scheduling out all activities with outcomes in mind

# Components of an implementation plan

## Required resources

- Includes, for example, necessary facilities, staffing, professional development, materials, dedicated preparation time

## Continuous improvement strategy

- How will you monitor implementation?
- What data will you collect, and how will you collect and analyze the data?
- How will you use the formative results?

# Discussion

1. What do these processes look like in your district?
2. What facilitates buy-in among stakeholders? What creates barriers?
3. Are there other things in your context that are considered that we did not mention? What are they?

# Context and implementation resources

## National Implementation Research Network

<https://nirn.fpg.unc.edu/ai-hub>

- Several resources, including the Hexagon Tool

## Concerns-Based Adoption Model

<https://www.air.org/resource/concerns-based-adoption-model-cbam>

- Framework for introducing and implementing a new practice in schools and districts

# Wrapping up



# We want to hear from you!

We value your opinion and feedback. Please take a few minutes to complete the exit survey to let us know how we did and how we can do better.

[https://live.datstathost.com/AIR-Collector/REL\\_Stakeholder\\_Feedback\\_Survey?\\_n=REL\\_Stakeholder\\_Feedback\\_Survey](https://live.datstathost.com/AIR-Collector/REL_Stakeholder_Feedback_Survey?_n=REL_Stakeholder_Feedback_Survey)



# Thank you!



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