SISEP

State Implementation and Scaling-up
of Evidence-based Practices

APRIL
2020
SISEP eNote

Optimizing Distance Learning Begins with Selection

The novel Coronavirus has provided extensive challenges that have led the global education community to explore new ways of teaching, learning and engaging students and families. What we learn from this time could transform the school experience well into the future if we optimize our learnings. Districts and schools are seeking and being provided with a wealth of exciting resources to maintain learning in virtual environments. As we lean into this new way of work, it is important to apply the concepts of implementation science.
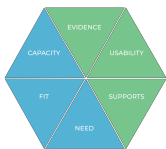
As you parse through the research and application of online learning practices, start with guidance from your state and local education agencies. From there, consider the following questions when selecting those online learning strategies that are **possible, probable, doable and best-matched** to the needs of your students and families.

First:

What is your need? What are the intended data-informed outcomes or specific results to achieve? Work to clearly articulate the objective and how distance learning practices and resources support the path to that objective.

Then:

Consider the following questions from the Hexagon Tool. The Hexagon Tool is a planning tool to guide selection and evaluate potential programs and practices for use. These same considerations apply in a virtual environment.
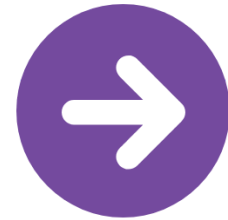
- **Evidence:** Is there data available that demonstrates the effectiveness of the strategy, practice, program or tools?

- **Usability:** Is there guidance on how to use and/or modify for the needs of all of your students in this context?

- **Supports:** What supports are currently available to use the practice effectively? Think about supports for any administrative needs and the

costs.

- ***Need:*** Is there evidence that the distance learning program, practice or tools will address the stated need and achieve your intended outcomes?

- ***Fit:*** How well does it fit with your available resources and/or approach to distance learning AND with your continuum of supports for existing initiatives?

- ***Capacity:*** How can we ensure that collectively our staff and families/communities have the knowledge, confidence, resources, and ability to use this way of teaching and learning?

As we work together to ensure the continuity of learning for our students, it is important to remember that the art and science of teaching and learning hasn't changed. Our context has shifted to distance learning. We can look to implementation science to guide education in this new context.

"Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights."
—Pauline R. Kezer

Resources to expand your learning:

- The Hexagon: An Exploration Tool

Citation:

- Adapted from Metz, A. & Louison, L. (2019). *The Hexagon Tool: Exploring Context*. Chapel Hill, NC: National Implementation Research Network, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Based on Kiser, Zabel, Zachik, & Smith (2007) and Blase, Kiser & Van Dyke (2013).

SISEP
State Implementation and Scaling-up
of Evidence-based Practices

FIND OUT MORE