Practical Implementation Science: Use of the Quality Implementation Tool to Bring Evidence-based Interventions to Scale

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Bridging Research and Practice: Quality Implementation

We define **Quality Implementation** as

- putting an innovation into practice in a way that meets the necessary standards to achieve the innovation’s desired outcomes
Overview of today’s talk

• Theoretical background and development of the Quality Implementation Tool
• What is the QIT? (*the bird’s eye view!*)
• Introduction to use of the QIT to bring an evidence-based innovation to scale
The Interactive Systems Framework for Dissemination and Implementation

Practical Implementation Science

• A user-friendly translation of the Implementation Science literature
  – Increase accessibility of implementation science literature to communities and organizations
  – Quality Implementation Tool
The Quality Implementation Tool

• Translation of the implementation science literature
  – Developed out of a synthesis of the implementation science frameworks
    • Meyers, Durlak, Wandersman, 2012
• Delineates the factors in the literature deemed to be important in increasing the likelihood of program success
  – What makes the difference?
Quality Implementation Tool (QIT)

• 6 Components:
  – Develop an implementation team
  – Foster supportive climate and conditions
  – Develop, monitor, and evaluate an implementation plan
  – Provide and receive technical assistance
  – Foster provider-developer collaborations
  – Evaluate the effectiveness of implementation

• Each component contains concrete action steps
Quality Implementation Tool (QIT)

• Can be used:
  – Plan implementation
    • Thinking through implementation a priori can systematize thinking
  – Monitor implementation
    • Use checklists and tools to help monitor implementation and make mid-course corrections
  – Evaluate implementation
    • Use for retrospective evaluation of what worked in terms of outcomes.
Use of the QIT: A brief example

• 1TWO1: “A computer for every student”
  – Educational technology integration initiative
  – Aims to “change the way teachers teach and students learn”
An example of QIT

• Large-scale innovation
  – N=38 schools and centers
    • Site-based management
  – >1000 teachers district-wide
    • Varying levels of readiness for pedagogical change

*How do we ensure quality implementation given variability across schools?*
An example of QIT

How do we ensure quality implementation given variability across schools?

Quality Implementation Tool!!

• Used for planning and monitoring at the:
  – District level
  – School level (selected schools)

• Used to overcome early challenges in schools
• Used to monitor ongoing implementation at all schools
Praise for the QIT

- Dr. Debbie Hamm,
Chief Information Officer

"QIT is helping us navigate the layers of work - layers that take planning, and implementation down to the school and classroom level and layers that break large tasks into even smaller tasks with specific responsibilities"
"The tool allows potentially dysfunctional relationships to step back, take a deep breath, and apply clear and structured logical steps to working through a challenge... The QIT tool seems to position the elements of the project (and the challenges) externally in a way that the key team members can see through the hype and work in logical ways that lead to better outcomes. Also, many times in education... we begin with the end-game in mind and struggle to work backwards to force the end game -- sometimes with incorrect practices -- without any structured guide to step through sequentially.

The QIT helps people to "face the brutal facts". It is effective in taking complex and potentially convoluted projects and converting the variables to their lowest common denominator."

- Tom Cranmer, Executive Director of IT services
What’s next for the QIT?

• QIT is growing and evolving
  – Use to evaluate implementation retroactively
  – Self-assessment of implementation status
  – Linking QIT usage to outcomes (implementation and program outcomes)
Thank You!

Questions/Comments?

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