ARE YOUR TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES WORKING?

The primary goal of any new technology initiative or program is to improve student learning outcomes. To track progress in meeting your intended goals and outcomes, use this chart and guiding questions to support evaluating your technology initiatives/programs.

1. WHY EVALUATE YOUR PROGRAM

   - Figure out what works and identify potential problems
   - Catch problems early on so they can be corrected before more problems occur
   - Guide implementation planning and identify implementation barriers
   - Identify what technical assistance is needed
   - Professional development opportunities are needed
   - Determine impact/outcome on students

2. FORMATIVE EVALUATION

   Example Questions
   - Did equipment rollout go as planned?
   - How many teachers participated in professional development activities? What worked well? What didn’t?
   - Is technology being used in the classroom as planned?
   - Are students using the technology as intended?

   Advantages
   - Catch implementation issues early in the process
   - Guide instructional corrections to the implementation process
   - Understand later outcomes and improve program management
   - Use baseline data to identify research questions for future summative evaluations

3. SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

   Provide SUPPORT
   - Help identify cause-and-effect relationships
   - Assess long-term impacts of a technology initiative
   - Provide data on change over time

   Provide TRAINING
   - Help identify cause-and-effect relationships
   - Assess long-term impacts of a technology initiative
   - Provide data on change over time

   Accomplish GOALS

4. DRAW CONCLUSIONS & DISSEMINATE

   - Organize and analyze data
   - Align data to original questions
   - Draw conclusions about the process
   - Assess whether or not outcomes were achieved
   - Think about what can be done in the future
   - Use results to improve program

   IMPROVEMENT

   DATA
ARE YOUR TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES WORKING?

The goal of any technology initiative is to improve learning outcomes. Use these evaluation tips to ensure that you are meeting the needs of all students, particularly those with disabilities.

WHY EVALUATE
Figure out what works, catch problems, determine impact

- Figure out what works and identify potential problems
- Catch problems early on so they can be corrected before more problems occur
- Guide implementation planning and identify implementation barriers
- Identify needed technical assistance and professional development opportunities
- Determine outcomes and impact on students

FORMATIVE EVALUATION
Example Questions

- Did equipment rollout go as planned?
- How many teachers participated in professional development activities? What worked well? What didn’t?
- Is technology being used in the classroom, as planned?
- Are students using the technology, as intended?

Advantages

- Catch implementation issues early in the process
- Guide midcourse corrections to the implementation process
- Understand and plan for long-term outcomes and needs (budget, equipment, system upgrades)
- Use baseline data to identify research questions for formative and summative evaluations

SUMMATIVE EVALUATION
Provide support, provide training, accomplish goals

Example Questions

- Did teacher technology skills improve as a result of professional development activities?
- Are teachers using technology more frequently in their instruction?
- Did technology improve targeted student outcomes?

Advantages

- Help identify cause-and-effect relationships
• Assess long-term impacts of a technology initiative
• Provide data on progress over time

**DRAW CONCLUSIONS & DISSEMINATE**
Data leads to Improvement

• Organize and analyze data
• Align data to original research questions
• Draw conclusions about the implementation process
• Assess whether or not outcomes were achieved
• Use results to improve initiative