NCCEP Workshop Prove Track: P5 Applying Rigorous Research

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The U.S. Department of Education has funded the development of useful tools and resources to support rigorous research and evaluation. Listed below are some of these resources, along with information on how to access them.

Resources

General Guidance on Designing and Conducting Rigorous Evaluation

First in the World Evaluation Plan Guidance

Description: Several U.S. Department of Education programs require or encourage evaluators to submit a detailed evaluation plan. This tool supports evaluators in developing a comprehensive study plan by specifying all of the key sections of a fully-articulated analysis plan.

Access: Download from https://fitw.grads360.org/#communities/pdc/documents/7815.

Designing Quasi-Experiments: Meeting What Works Clearinghouse Standards Without Random Assignment (Webinar and Slides)

Description: This webinar explains how to design and execute high-quality quasi-experimental designs (QEDs) with the intent of meeting WWC group design standards with reservations. Guidance is given on key features in designing a study, pitfalls and strengths of studies reviewed by the WWC, and common misconceptions about different types of QEDs.

Access: Watch webinar at http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/multimedia.aspx?sid=23.
View slides at http://education.ufl.edu/educational-research/files/2015/04/qed_presentation_slides_030315.pdf.

Designing and Conducting Strong Quasi-Experiments in Education, Version 2

Description: This brief describes best practices in designing strong quasi-experimental studies and discusses common problems encountered in QEDs.

Access: Download from http://www.dir-online.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Designing-and-Conducting-Strong-Quasi-Experiments-in-Education-Version-2.pdf .

Designing Strong Studies: Developing Studies Consistent with What Works Clearinghouse Evidence Standards (Webinar)

Description: This webinar focuses on how to design strong studies that test the effectiveness of interventions in schools and classrooms. Topics include developing strong study designs, identifying and retaining a sample, collecting necessary data, conducting analyses consistent with WWC standards, and strategies to prevent common pitfalls.

Access: Watch webinar at http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Multimedia.aspx?sid=18 .

WWC Procedures and Standards Handbook

Description: The WWC Handbook provides a detailed description of the standards and procedures of the WWC. Version 3.0 of the Handbook contains the standards currently in use by the WWC for reviewing studies.

Access: Download from http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/DocumentSum.aspx?sid=19

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Logic Models

Designing a Logic Model in NEi3 (Webinar and Slides)

Description: This webinar provides an overview of the use of logic models in designing high-quality implementation studies. The approach is tied to specific criteria in the Investing in Innovation Fund (i3) program.

Access: Email NEi3_TA@abtassoc.com to request webinar and slides.

National Evaluation of i3 Technical Assistance Logic Model Development Template

Description: This template can be used for developing a logic model containing key features to fully describe the intervention and create a fidelity of implementation measure.

Access: Email NEi3_TA@abtassoc.com to request template.

Logic Models for Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation: Workshop Toolkit

Description: This toolkit is designed to help practitioners learn about the purpose of a logic model, the elements of a logic model, and the steps for developing and using a logic model for program evaluation.

Access: Download from https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/northeast/pdf/REL_2015057.pdf .

Implementation Fidelity

Designing a Measure of Fidelity of Implementation Model in NEi3 (Webinar and Slides)

Description: This webinar provides an overview of fidelity of implementation and fidelity of intervention and guidance on how to develop measures of fidelity.

Access: Email NEi3_TA@abtassoc.com to request webinar and slides.

Fidelity of Implementation Matrix and Instruction

Description: This tool was developed to help evaluators plan their strategy for measuring the achieved implementation fidelity of the i3-funded intervention. It can be used to (1) define the key components of the interventions (drawn from a logic model) that are the basis for the measure of fidelity of implementation; (2) identify data sources to measure these key components; 3) articulate a data collection schedule; and (4) define criteria or thresholds for high or adequate fidelity of each component.

Access: Email NEi3_TA@abtassoc.com to request guide.

Power

National Evaluation of i3 TA Guidance – Calculating MDEs

Description: This document provides guidance regarding the calculation of minimum detectable effect sizes (MDEs) during the design phase of a study and once a study is complete. During the design phase estimation of a study's MDE for a key outcome is dependent on knowledge of the study design, and a variety of assumptions, which are discussed.

Access: Email NEi3_TA@abtassoc.com to request memo.

National Evaluation of i3 - Conducting Power Analyses in i3 Using Optimal Design and PowerUp! Software (Webinar and Slides)

Description: This webinar provides guidance on how to calculate the minimum detectable effects for a study.

Access: Email NEi3_TA@abtassoc.com to request webinar and slides.