

Handout 28

Decision Support Data System (DSDS)



There are three types of Implementation Drivers: Competency, Organization, and Leadership. Organization Drivers are the organizational, administrative and systems components to create and sustain hospitable environments for full and effective use of intended innovations. Organization Drivers include: Decision Support Data Systems, Facilitative Administration, and Systems Intervention.

A Decision Support Data System (DSDS) is a system for identifying, collecting, and analyzing data that are useful to the staff and leadership of the implementing agencies. The data system needs to provide timely, accurate, and reliable data for decision-making.

Best Practices for Decision Support Data System

- **Ensure there is someone accountable for the DSDS, and they are supported.**
Ensure a person or team is accountable for coordinating the content, quality, and timeliness of the data system to support implementation decisions. This person/team must have adequate resources to develop, deploy and manage the DSDS, like sufficient time and access to key stakeholders.
- **Build DSDS use into the organization.**
Data and information are collected systematically and prepared for use so that they are accurate, relevant, reliable, valid, timely and accessible. Data collection and use should be built into regular practice routines. Data should include process data, outcome data, and fidelity data.
- **Use DSDS data for decision-making.**
Data for decision making process includes:
 - a. analyzing and summarizing the data (e.g., quarterly at a minimum); When analyzing data and action planning here are 7 questions to guide your decision making process (Sugai, 2004):
 - i. What does “it” look like now?
 - ii. Are we satisfied with how “it” looks?
 - iii. What would we like “it” to look like?
 - iv. What would we need to do to make “it” look like that?
 - v. How would we know if we’ve been successful with “it”?
 - vi. What can we do to keep “it” like that?
 - vii. What can we do to make “it” more efficient & durable?
 - b. communicating data summaries clearly in reports to staff;
 - c. developing action plans to improve program implementation; and
 - d. sharing of data summaries and action plans with key stakeholders.

Then, we need to identify who will be responsible for making the improvements and in what timeframe.

Different Types of Data

Program or Process	Fidelity (Integrity)	Outcome
<p><i>Data that are relevant to administration of the strategy, program, or practice</i></p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment • Reach or Scale • Cost of participation • Financial Data • Staffing 	<p><i>Data that measures the extent to which the strategy, program, or practice has been implemented as intended</i></p> <p><u>Constructs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence • Dosage/Exposure • Quality/Competency • Participant Responsiveness • Component Differentiation <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation • Self-Report • Product Reviews • Interviews 	<p><i>Results data, measures the impact of the strategy, practice, or program</i></p> <p><u>Examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved achievement • Improved skills or behavior • Teacher retention • Increased knowledge • Changes in beliefs or perceptions

Programs need all of these types of data to diagnose issues that emerge during implementation, and understand if there is a process or performance issue, or an issue with the program and its fit.

For more information, see the AI Hub Lesson, "[Drivers Ed: Decision Support Data Systems](#)".