Incorporating Evidence Into Your EdTech Decisions
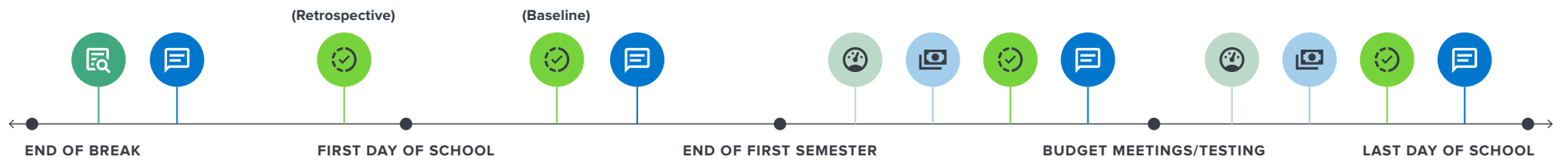
Running Rapid-cycle Evaluations to Improve Instructional, Operational and Financial Outcomes

PLATFORM LEARN BY INSTRUCTURE

Rapid-cycle evaluation (RCE) is an ESSA-aligned approach education organizations use to generate practical, relevant evidence and make data-informed decisions about edtech tools. Here's a map to running RCEs throughout the school year.

LearnPlatform's RCE engine, IMPACT, equips curriculum and instruction, technology, finance and other education leaders to make evidence-based decisions.

Recommended RCE Schedule

| END OF BREAK | FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL | END OF FIRST SEMESTER | BUDGET MEETINGS/TESTING | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL |

(Retrospective)   (Baseline)

EdTech Audit*
Identify opportunities for immediate savings as well as inform school-year initiatives.

*Note: Audits should be run when all stakeholders can participate (i.e., staff with access to contracts and admin tools, enough student count to generate an Inventory Dashboard).

Teacher Feedback
Improve edtech implementation and support, and see if tools are working for teachers and students.

Usage or Fidelity Analysis
See if students are actually using the approved edtech tools, if they are using them as intended and how student groups compare. Can be run throughout the year to identify patterns and examine use from different periods of time.

Cost Analysis
Uncover edtech ROI at different points in the year, identify cost-related trends and gather data to inform budget conversations. Can be run throughout the year to maximize value for current students, or at the end of the year to determine allocation of funds for the following school year.

Outcomes Analysis
RETROSPECTIVE: Learn from previous year, plan for future edtech implementations and decisions.

BASELINE: Analyze your current edtech ecosystem to set a baseline, examining pre-implementation data.

MIDDLE OF YEAR: Monitor engagement and effectiveness trends, and evaluate impact of program changes over time for various student groups.

END OF YEAR: Review year-long edtech engagement and effectiveness, evaluate impact of changes over time and ensure edtech is working for all students.

ESSA Levels of Evidence
Districts running RCEs with IMPACT can generate evidence that aligns with the levels of evidence required by ESSA. **Read more here.**

	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE QUESTIONS
EdTech Audit	Analyze current edtech landscape and benchmark district edtech effectiveness. *Quick Tip: Can be performed at any time during the year and across all edtech products.*	+ Immediate cost savings opportunities? + Priority actions to impact safety, equity and effectiveness? + How can we improve our implementations?
Teacher Feedback	Share insights on approved edtech tools directly with district administrators, ensuring educator voices are heard. *Quick Tip: Collect teacher feedback during the first semester, at the end of grading periods and/or on targeted products.*	+ Is edtech easy to implement? + What do educators think about the tools they use?
Usage or Fidelity Analysis	Usage data with specific edtech intervention(s). When including a recommended product usage, it is a Fidelity Analysis. *Quick Tip: Choose a couple products at first, then extend to all during your retrospective.*	+ How much are students using a product? Are they using it to fidelity? + What supports or needs will improve implementation? + Any patterns emerging during different points in the year?
Cost Analysis	Usage data with specific edtech intervention(s) **and** cost/pricing data. *Quick Tip: Focus on high-cost products in the first semester.*	+ How much was spent on underused licenses for a certain edtech tool this year? + Can we improve team conversations around edtech cost-effectiveness? + Where can we improve our edtech ROI for students?
Outcomes Analysis	Usage data with specific edtech intervention(s) **and** a success metric (e.g., grade, test scores, SEL) during a specific period of time.	**RETROSPECTIVE** + What can we learn from last year's edtech implementation? + Where can we integrate evidence-based decisions for PD this fall? **BASELINE** + What is edtech usage for the first 3 months of the year? + What can we monitor for later budget meetings? **MIDDLE OF YEAR** + Which interventions appear to have positive impacts on mid-year student scores? For which students? + What practices and approaches do we want to use for the second half of the year? **END OF YEAR** + In which situations did our interventions work best? Where should we update or improve? + Which tools had positive effects on student outcomes? + Did one product work better for students than another product over the course of the year?

Contact us
to discuss rapid-cycle evaluations for your district, state or organization.