

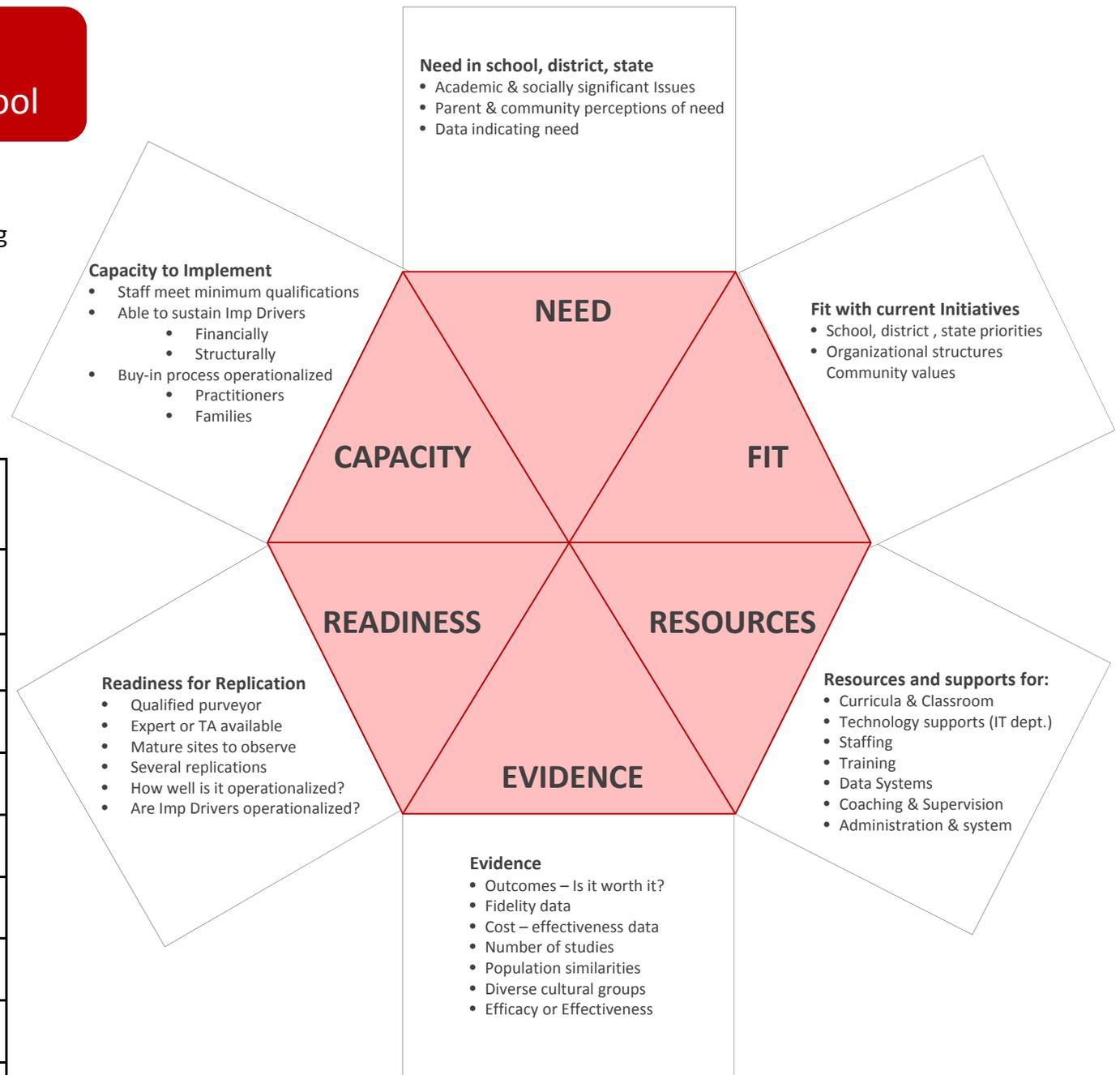
The Hexagon

An EBP/EII Exploration Tool

The “Hexagon” can be used as a planning tool to evaluate evidence-based programs and practices during the Exploration Stage of Implementation.

Download available at:
www.scalingup.org/tools-and-resources

EBP:			
5 Point Rating Scale: High = 5; Medium = 3; Low = 1. Midpoints can be used and scored as a 2 or 4.			
	High	Med	Low
Need			
Fit			
Resource Availability			
Evidence			
Readiness for Replication			
Capacity to Implement			
Total Score			



The Hexagon Tool

An EBP/EII Exploration and Discussion Tool



State Implementation
& Scaling-up
of Evidence-based Practices

This guidance document and Hexagon Tool can help states, districts, and schools appropriately select evidence-based instructional, behavioral, and social-emotional interventions and prevention approaches by reviewing six broad factors in relation to the program or practice under consideration.

Broad factors to consider when doing early stage exploration of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP)/Evidence Informed Innovations (EII) include:

- **Needs** of the children and students; how well the program or practice might meet identified needs.
- **Fit** with current initiatives, priorities, structures and supports, and parent/community values.
- **Resource Availability** for training, staffing, technology supports, curricula, data systems and administration.
- **Evidence** indicating the outcomes that might be expected if the program or practices are implemented well.
- **Readiness for Replication** of the program, including expert assistance available, number of replications accomplished, exemplars available for observation, and how well the program is operationalized
- **Capacity to Implement** as intended and to sustain and improve implementation over time.

A thorough exploration process focused on the proposed program or practice will help your Implementation Team(s) have a productive discussion related to the six areas listed above, and to arrive at a decision to move forward (or not) grounded in solid information from multiple sources. That information will assist you in communicating with stakeholders and in developing an Implementation Plan.

There are a number of discussion prompts listed under each area of the hexagon. These prompts are not exhaustive, and you may decide that additional prompts need to be added. The prompts direct you to relevant dimensions that your team may want to discuss before rating the factor.

For example, under the area labeled **Fit**, you are reminded to consider:

- How the proposed intervention or framework ‘fits’ with other existing initiatives and whether implementation and outcomes are likely to be enhanced or diminished as a result of interactions with other relevant interventions
- How does it fit with the priorities of your state, district, or school?
- How does it fit with current state, district, or regional organizational structures?
- How does it fit with community values, including the values of diverse cultural groups?

Recommendations for Using the Hexagon Tool

The following are SISEP recommendations for using the tool:

1. Assign team members to gather information related to the six factors and to present the information to the decision-making group or relevant Implementation Team. Following report-outs related to each area and/or review of written documents, team members can individually rate each area on a 1 to 5 scale, where 1 indicates a low level of acceptability or feasibility, 3 a moderate level and 5 indicates a high level for the factor. Midpoints can be used and scored as 2 or 4.
2. You can average scores for each area across individuals and arrive at an overall average score, with a higher score indicating more favorable conditions for implementation and impact. However, cut-off scores should not be used to make the decision.
3. The scoring process is primarily designed to generate discussion and to help arrive at consensus for each factor as well as overall consensus related to moving forward or not. The numbers do not make the decision, the team does. Team discussions and consensus decision-making are required because different factors may be more or less important for a given program or practice and the context in which it is to be implemented. There also will be trade-offs among the factors. For example, a program or practice may have a high level of evidence with rigorous research and strong effect size (Evidence), but may not yet have been implemented widely outside of the research trials (Intervention Readiness for Replication). This should lead to a team discussion of how ready you are to be the “first” to implement in typical educational settings in your area. Or the team may discover that excellent help is available from a purveyor or from expert Training or Technical Assistance, but that ongoing costs (Resource Availability) may be a concern.
4. We recommend that after reviewing information related to each factor, individually scoring each factor, summarizing ratings, and discussing the strengths and challenges related to each factor of the proposed intervention, that the team members decide on a process for arriving at consensus (for instance, private voting or round-robin opinions followed by public voting).