Glossary of Key Implementation Science Terms and Acronyms

This glossary reflects some key implementation science terms commonly used.

Key Term	Synonyms and Related Terms	Acronym	Definition
Active Implementation Frameworks	Implementation Frameworks	AIF, AIFs	Five core components that embody the critical elements for implementation success as identified by research: Usable Interventions, Implementation Teams, Implementation Drivers, Stages of Implementation, and Improvement Cycles (Fixsen, Blase, Duda, Naoom, & Van Dyke, 2010). They offer specific guidance on how to implement a program in a manner that ensures that programs or practices are used with fidelity and sustained over time.
Adaptive Leadership	Leadership Driver Technical Leadership		One of two leadership styles (the other being technical leadership) found to be critical when engaging in complex systems-change activities. Leaders must adjust their approach depending on the types of problems that emerge. Adaptive leadership is needed when problems in practice are not easy to define, require people other than the leader to resolve, and often require experimentation to find solutions over time (Heifetz & Laurie 1997).
Competency Drivers	Implementation Drivers Organization Drivers Leadership Drivers		One of three categories of implementation drivers that focuses on building staff confidence and competence. Drivers that fall into this category include: (staff) Selection, Training, Coaching, and Performance Assessment (Fixsen, et al., 2010).
Effective Implementation Methods	Formula for Success		Part of the "Formula for Success" equation (NIRN, 2013). Methods that support the ability of an organization to implement the selected intervention with fidelity by attending to Implementation Teams, Implementation Drivers, Stages of Implementation, and Improvement Cycles.
Effective Interventions	Usable Intervention "What" "It"		Part of the "Formula for Success" equation (NIRN, 2013). This refers to the intervention, innovation, initiative, program, or policy that is selected for implementation based on evidence of effectiveness for the population or context in which it will be implemented.
Enabling Context	Formula for Success		Part of the "Formula for Success" equation (NIRN, 2013). Policies, procedures, or practices that provide the opportunities for new changes to happen.
Fidelity	Performance Assessment		Implementing the new intervention (program, policy, etc.) as intended by the developer.
Formula for Success	Effective Interventions Effective Implementation Methods Enabling Contexts		Formula conceptualized by the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN, 2013). This is depicted as an equation describing three broad variables leading to achieve one's intended outcome: Effective Interventions x Effective Implementation Methods x Enabling Contexts = Intended Outcomes.
Implementation			Commonly defined as "to do." In this context, it refers to the variables and conditions need to put something into practice; executing the new practice or policy.
Implementation Drivers	Competency Drivers Organization Drivers Leadership Drivers Active Implementation Framework		One of the Active Implementation Frameworks (Fixsen, et al., 2010), these guide the work of the implementation teams and are organized into three categories: competency, organization, and leadership (Fixsen, Blase, Duda, Naoom & Van Dyke, 2008).

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Implementation Science		IS	Broadly, "the scientific study of methods to promote the systematic uptake of research findings and other evidence-based practices into routine practice" (Eccles & Mittman, 2006).
Implementation Stages	Active Implementation Framework Exploration Stage Installation Stage Initial Implementation Stage Full Implementation Stage		One of the Active Implementation Frameworks (Fixsen, et al., 2010), provides guidance that key actions teams can use to plan for the sustainability of any initiative. Teams need to work through 4 discrete yet overlapping stages: Exploration, Installation, Initial Implementation, and Full Implementation.
Implementation Teams	Active Implementation Framework		One of the Active Implementation Frameworks (Fixsen, et al., 2010), it consists of a core group of at least three to five members who have dedicated time (e.g., part of their job description) to address the system changes needed to support the new program or practice, and have the knowledge and skills to implement it (Duda & Wilson, 2015).
Improvement Cycles	Active Implementation Framework Plan-Do-Study-Act		One of the Active Implementation Frameworks (Fixsen, et al., 2010), Improvement Cycles offer teams a clear process for making decisions systematically while engaging in continuous improvement. The primary processes used to make adjustments is the Plan-Do-Study-Act Cycle (Deming, 1982).
Leadership Drivers	Competency Drivers Organization Drivers Implementation Drivers Adaptive Leadership Technical Leadership		One of three categories of implementation drivers that focuses on building staff confidence and competence. Drivers that fall into this category include: (staff) Selection, Training, Coaching, and Performance (Fixsen, et al., 2010).
Organization			The entity taking on the implementation, such as a building/school, district, division, or state department.
Organization Drivers	Implementation Drivers Competency Drivers Leadership Drivers		One of three categories of implementation drivers that focuses on organization and systems change. Drivers that fall into this category include: Decision Support Data Systems, Facilitative Administration and System Intervention (Fixsen, et al., 2010).
System			In an organization, a system is a collection of parts such as the infrastructure, leadership, processes, principles, and other components that work together to accomplish a goal.
Technical Leadership	Leadership Driver Adaptive Leadership		One of two leadership styles (the other being adaptive leadership) found to be critical when engaging in complex systems-change activities. Leaders must adjust their approach depending on the types of problems that emerge. Technical leadership is needed when problems and solutions can be clearly identified and defined for a straightforward resolution (Heifetz & Laurie 1997).
Usable Intervention	Active Implementation Framework Effective Intervention "What" "It"		The intervention, innovation, initiative, program, or policy that is selected for implementation. It includes core "non-negotiable" components that distinguish it from a more loosely defined "what." According to Blasé and Fixsen (2013), in order for the "what" to be considered "usable," it must include the following four components: 1. A clear description 2. Information about essential functions 3. Operational definitions 4. Performance assessments or fidelity measures

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