

# Intervention Fidelity

## Why should we assess intervention fidelity?

- ◇ Research-based programs are only research-based if they are implemented as planned.
- ◇ It supports teacher implementation and effective instructional techniques.
- ◇ Teams need to understand how the program is being implemented before evaluating outcome data.
- ◇ Teams need evidence of implementation across the tiers before increasing the intensity of intervention for an individual student

## How do you measure fidelity?

- ◇ **Direct observation:** Steps of the intervention plan are operationally defined. A person observes the intervention while it is being implemented, recording whether each step of the intervention plan occurred or did not occur. Calculation of the percentage of steps completed occurs.
- ◇ **Permanent Products:** Intervention implementer collects a permanent product for each component of the intervention as evidence that the intervention occurred. This may include a by-product that insinuates the presence of a component of the plan.
- ◇ **Self-Report:** The person implementing the intervention is asked to complete a self-report form after each intervention session. Each step of the intervention is listed, and the implementer indicates if each step was completed with a high or low level of integrity. This method is less objective and there is a risk of inflation. It is recommended that this method is paired with another method.
- ◇ **Interview:** Similar to self-report, another person interviews the intervention implementer to determine whether each step of the intervention plan was implemented as intended, and the implementer's answers are recorded.
- ◇ **Rating Scale:** A person observes the intervention while it is being implemented, and then he or she rates each step of the intervention from absent to 100% present.

## How can you make the fidelity measurement experience more positive for those involved?

- ◇ **Communicate** that the purpose is to support the implementer
- ◇ Communicate **clear expectations** and procedures for fidelity
- ◇ Have a discussion with the teacher before the assessment to **review** the fidelity procedures
- ◇ Have teachers **self rate** before a second person comes in to observe

**Intervention Fidelity** involves implementing an intervention as it was designed to be implemented.

“If we are going to implement interventions, and use data from these interventions to determine the level of supports that a student receives, we must be confident that the **student's outcome** (either positive or negative) is a response to the intervention and not a response to someone's failure to implement the intervention.”

### FACTORS THAT DIMINISH FIDELITY

- ◇ High complexity or lack of skill
- ◇ Time consuming
- ◇ Materials not available
- ◇ Lack of perceived efficacy
- ◇ Interventionist's motivation

### WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO IMPROVE INTEGRITY

- ◇ Assess fidelity regularly
- ◇ Streamline design (time, materials, personnel)
- ◇ Develop a thorough intervention plan
- ◇ Build in support