



Making the Transition Program Tool Work for You: Updates and New Features

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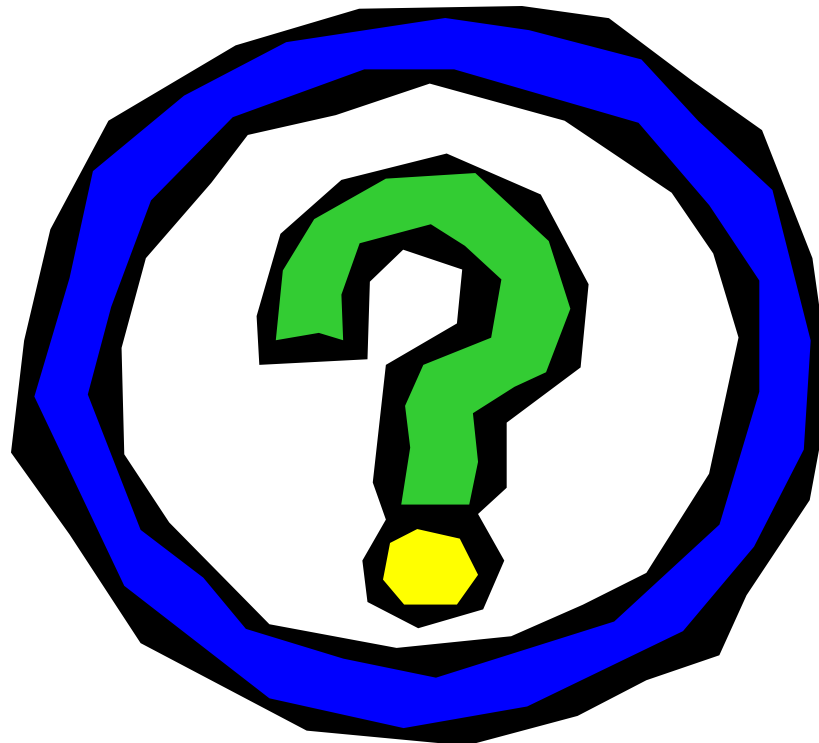
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Why use the “tool”?





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Strategic Planning System

- NTACT supports state and local-level planning to foster application of research to practice
- Although we've been supporting school improvement efforts since the mid 90s, we moved our planning process from a paper-based process into a web-based application beginning in 2012.



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State Capacity Building Process





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Local Improvement Process

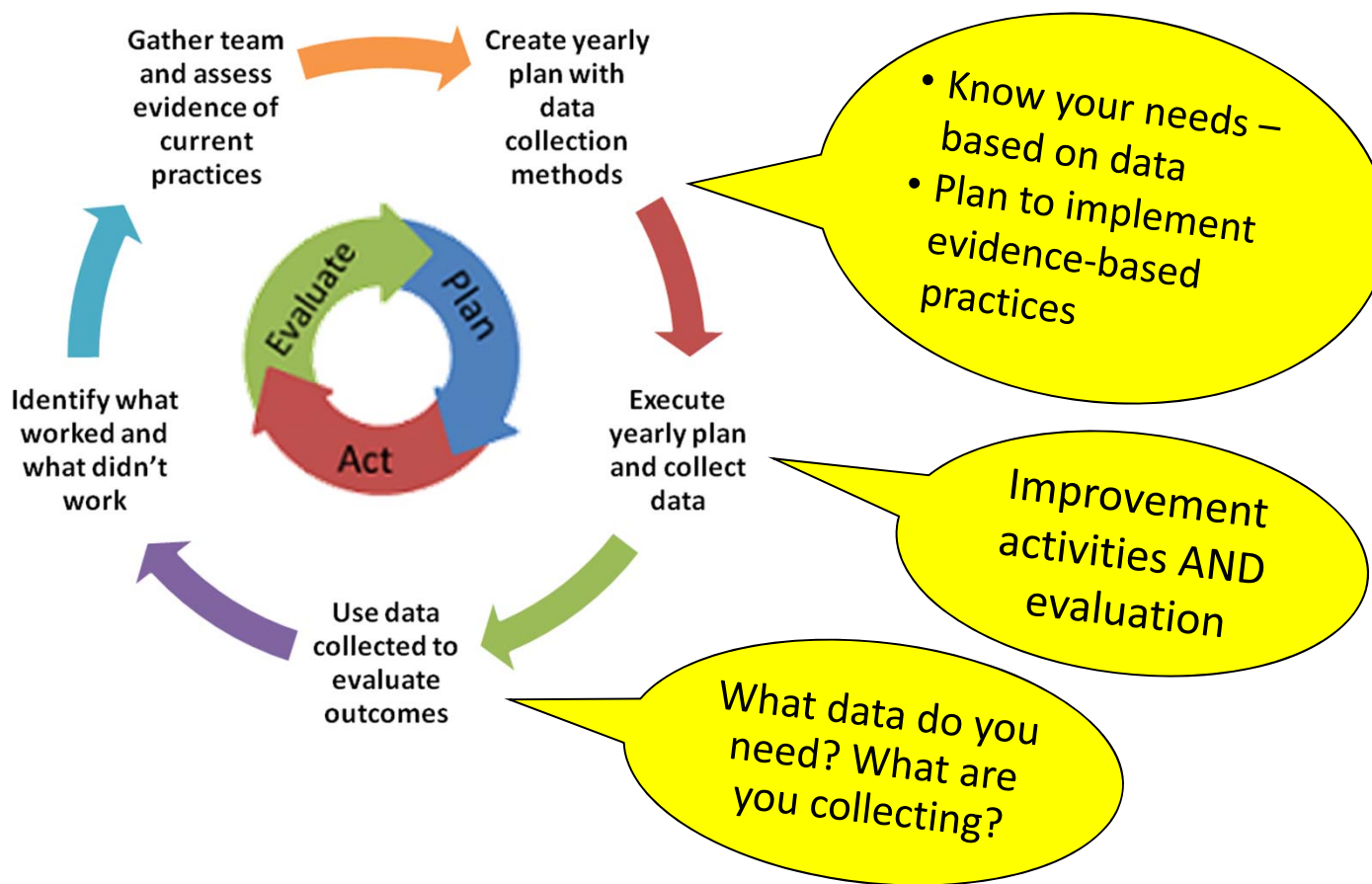




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Data-Based Decision-Making





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Fundamental Questions

- What are we doing now?
- How well are we doing it?
- What do we need to do to improve?
- What will we do (now and in the future)?
- How will we measure our progress?



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How Do We Know We Improved?

- Do you have a good plan?
- Have you evaluated the effectiveness of your plan?
- Have you measured your progress?
- Have you evaluated your outcomes?
- Did you achieve what you intended?



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Our Approach

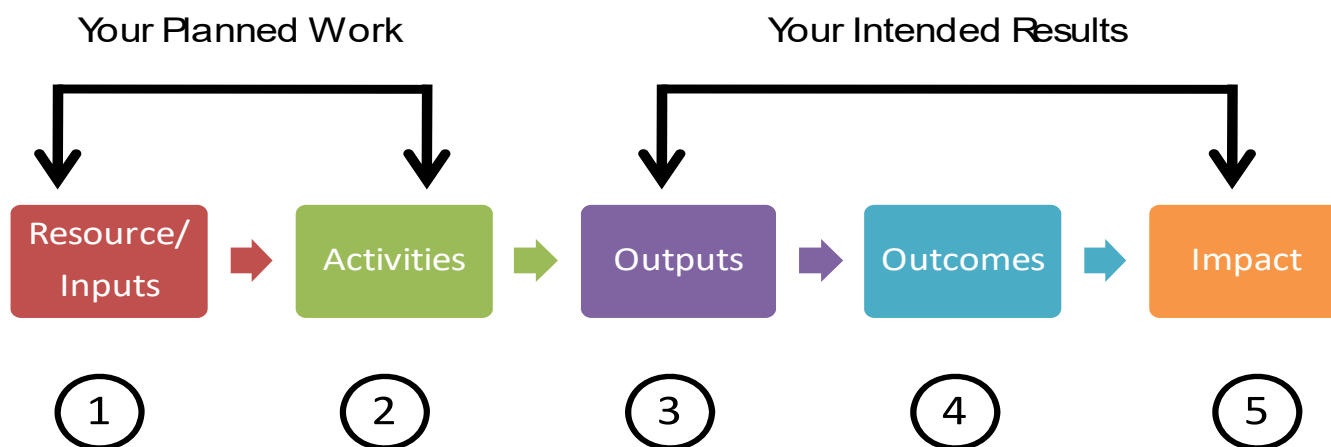
**Strategic
Planning
System**



**Application of
the logic
model for
planning and
evaluation**



Logic Model Components

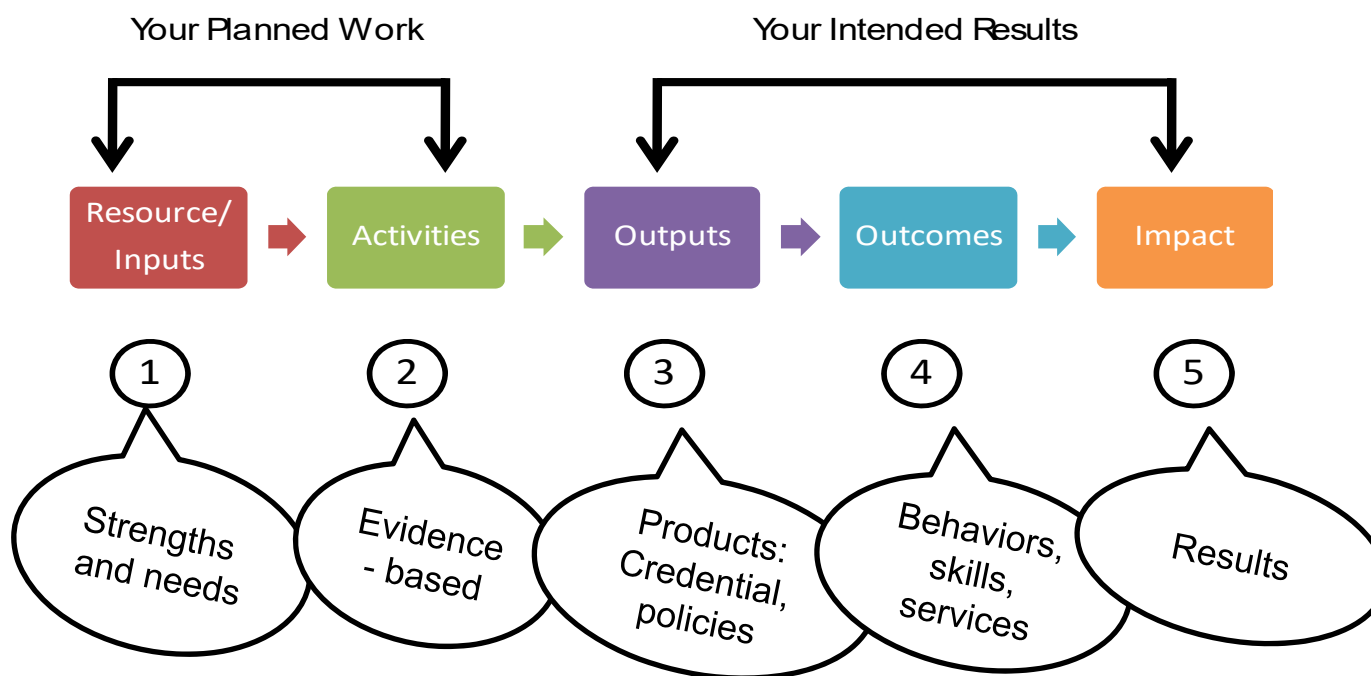




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Logic Model Components





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Summary of Features

- The system creates a record, across time and through personnel changes
- The system fosters data downloads by the project team and state/local teams
- Data downloads foster
 - Technical soundness assessment
 - Tracking progress (or not) across time
 - Research regarding implementation science



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Summary of Features

- Self-assessment and planning focus on using data
- Self-assessment and planning focus on implementation and evaluation of EBPP
- Built-in resources provide EBPP content, outcome indicators, and data sources



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Lessons Learned: Technical Soundness

- When we provide teams in-depth feedback about the technical soundness of their plans:
 - Many go back and update or revise their plans
 - Many add to their evaluation plans



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Hypothesis

- Our hypothesis predicted that using an online strategic planning tool versus a paper strategic planning tool would improve the technical soundness of annual strategic plans.



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Technical Soundness Defined

For the purposes of this study, a technically sound annual team plan for building state capacity to implement evidence-based and promising transition practices includes a **goal** that addresses a relevant need, is linked to an evidence-based or promising practice, and is related to a transition outcome. It articulates **the link between activities, person responsible, the timeline, outputs, and anticipated outcomes of the annual goal**. Finally, it provides an accountability framework in the form of **planning for sound evaluation and useful results**.



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Procedures

- Interrater reliability
- Assumption of normality
- Paired samples *t*-test



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Results

Paired samples t test supported the hypothesis

- Found a significant increase in technical soundness of
 - online plans ($M = 26.08$, $SD = 6.44$)
 - compared to paper plans ($M = 19.63$, $SD = 7.00$)
- $t(37) = 6.26$, $p < .0001$, 95% $CI [4.36, 8.54]$, $d = 1.04$



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Technical Soundness and Goals

- We hypothesized that higher quality plans as indicated by technical soundness scores would correlate with the achievement of school improvement goals.





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Data Details

- Plans with fully completed reports (n = 33)
- Goals reported as achieved (n = 13)
- Goals reported as in progress or not achieved (n = 20)
- Technical soundness of the plans ranged from 32 to 100 percent (M = 75.74, SD = 16.05)



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Technical Soundness and Goals

- Average technical soundness for goals completed:
88%
- Average technical soundness for goals not completed:
68%



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Technical Soundness and Goals

- Teams with plans with higher technical soundness were more likely to reach their goals



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Significance

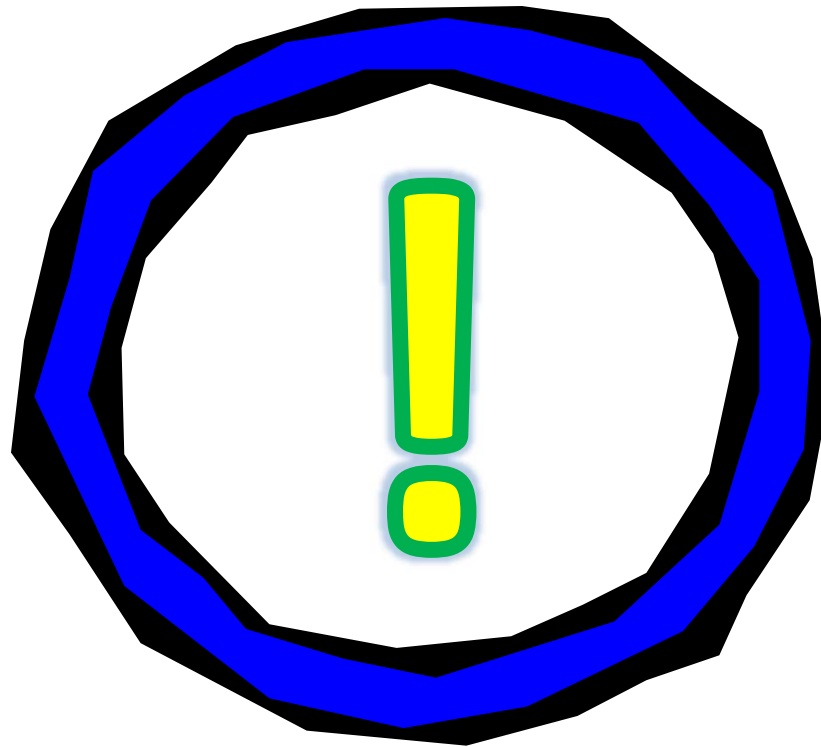
- Links between educational improvement and strategic planning has been substantiated throughout the literature
- Sound strategic planning is reported to connect to higher achievement for students
- This process applies a collaborative planning process that leads to *data-driven decision making* through
 - Self-assessment
 - Planning
 - Evaluation
- Assists in future studies of the connection between strategic planning, evaluation planning, and student-level outcomes



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That's why!





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Transitionprogramtool.org 2.0

- Implemented a series of improvements
 - Security
 - Team leaders and members roles
 - Assessments - past and future planning
 - System management
- Looking ahead
 - Using data
 - Inclusive postsecondary education planning



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Security

- Firewall
- Log in process
- Authentication
- Verification of email address



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Team Member Roles

- Strategies for moving members forward year to year
- Relationship with a team's site depends on one being a member of a team
- Defines who can see and do what with the team's site
- State/region/local structure



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Assessments and Plans

- State/region/local structure
- Dashboard information
 - Status
 - Info
- Connects previous years' information, so if you miss a year, you can still pull previous assessment and planning info into the current year



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System Management

- Defines NTACT roles
 - Privilege oversight
 - Observers
- Can do the same thing with state user roles to assign access associated with responsibility
- Functions are more user friendly



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What's Next?

- Postsecondary education program planning component (see https://fcsua.org/I_Tool.php)
- Printing information?
- Progress and final reports?
- Generating data reports – what kind?
- Connecting resources?
- Other?