District Management Group

Are You Prepared to Adopt an A-ROI Approach to Resource Allocation?

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Use this self-assessment to find out whether your district is ready, willing, and able to adopt an academic return on investment (A-ROI) approach to resource allocation.

District Management Group

Manager's Toolkit

Are You Prepared to Adopt an A-ROI Approach to Resource Allocation?

Adopting an academic return on investment (A-ROI) approach to resource allocation can be a significant shift in mindset and practice for a district. In District Management Group's work training dozens of districts to adopt A-ROI practices and tools, we have found that a few indicators can help districts determine whether they are ready, willing, and able to make this shift.

READY to Evaluate Programs	Not at all developed	Somewhat developed	Fully developed
Team Have you identified a team to own the A-ROI work that includes an influential leader, a member of the budget office, and a member of the academic team?			
Owner Is there a single champion who will be accountable for bringing A-ROI concepts to the district?			
Time Do the people on the team have the time to execute this work?			
Existing Practice Do you have a pre-existing system for evaluating programs?			
Total number of checkmarks in each column	____ x 1	____ x 2	____ x 3

Total Ready Score _____

SCORING: Add the total Ready, Willing, and Able scores.

0–19: Before your district undertakes adopting an A-ROI approach, it would be useful to spend some time to create the building blocks for this data-driven approach. Thinking through the above questions will help provide an indication of where you might want to build capacity.

20–26: You are ready to begin adopting the A-ROI approach and just need to dedicate some effort to bolstering your capacity in some areas.

27–36: Your district is ready, willing, and able to adopt an A-ROI-centric approach. Adopting A-ROI is a great deal of work for any district, but you are well positioned to begin to bring a more data-driven approach to your resource allocation.

WILLING to Evaluate Programs	Not at all developed	Somewhat developed	Fully developed
Central Office Do the superintendent and cabinet-level leaders understand what will be involved in A-ROI work in terms of data needed, time, etc.?			
Schools Do principals understand why the district would like to take an A-ROI approach to looking at programs and initiatives?			
Board Are board members supportive of the district's interest in using the A-ROI lens to make decisions about resources?			
Trusting School-District Relationship How strong is the trust between schools and the district?			
Total number of checkmarks in each column	____ x 1	____ x 2	____ x 3

Total Willing Score [ ]

ABLE to Evaluate Programs	Not at all developed	Somewhat developed	Fully developed
Use of Data Does your school or district use data to make decisions?			
Data Analysis Does your team have the ability to conduct a statistical analysis of student outcomes and collect and calculate cost data?			
Systems Can your budget systems and student information systems provide you with detailed data?			
Communication Does the team have the skill and time to communicate your work and findings?			
Total number of checkmarks in each column	____ x 1	____ x 2	____ x 3

Total Able Score [ ]

READY [ ] **+** **WILLING** [ ] **+** **ABLE** [ ] **=** **Preparedness for A-ROI** [ ]