

Decision Readiness Check

Examining Whether an Idea Is Ready for Use in Practice

For teachers, instructional leaders, and district teams examining new tools, initiatives, or approaches during planning.

Core Question

How ready is this idea for use in this setting?

Purpose

Planning often involves consideration of new tools, initiatives, or approaches.

This is not a checklist.

This is designed to examine whether an idea is positioned to function in practice—within the conditions, decisions, and routines that shape day-to-day work.

Across research on implementation and instructional decision-making, a consistent finding is: The strength of an idea depends on how it is interpreted and used in context.

5 Decision Readiness Considerations

1. Problem

What is this idea intended to address?

- What is the specific problem of practice?
- How is that problem currently showing up?
- Is it defined in a similar way across contexts?

2. Conditions

When and where does this work?

- What evidence supports this idea?
- Under what conditions was it effective?
- How similar are those conditions to this setting?

3. Decision Point

Where would this shape day-to-day decisions?

Identify a recurring moment in practice, such as:

- planning instruction
- reviewing student work
- responding to feedback
- determining next steps

What decision occurs at this point?

How would this idea change that decision?

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Decision Readiness Considerations (continued)

4. Practice

What will this require in daily work?

- What information will be used?
- What interpretation is expected?
- What response is expected?
- What follow-up is expected?

5. Consistency

What will support aligned use across contexts?

- Are expectations for interpretation and response visible?
- Where might variation occur?
- What shared reference points are available?

Reading Across Your Response

As you consider each point, attend to the following:

- Where is there clear specification of the problem, conditions, and practice?
- Where are assumptions present or left unexamined?
- Where does the idea connect directly to a decision in practice—and where does it remain at a general level?
- Where are expectations for interpretation and response well-defined—and where might they vary?

Key Consideration

An idea is more likely to function as intended when these elements—problem, conditions, decisions, and practice—are clearly specified and connected.

When they are not, use is more likely to vary across contexts.

This is what the *Decision Readiness Check* is designed to surface.

How to Use

Use this during planning conversations or when considering a new idea.

Start with one idea and one decision point.

This tool is part of a broader set of *edblogcast* resources focused on responsible, research-informed practice.