

## EBITE RESOURCE GUIDE

### RG01 Cycle of Continuous Improvement

#### Purpose

In this guide, we introduce how the cycle of continuous improvement can be used to help educators, schools and districts put new education practices and interventions into place and identify “what works” for their students and schools! The Evidence-based Intervention Training for Education program (EBITE) uses and adapts the cycle of continuous improvement (for example, as outlined in [Ohio’s Improvement Process](#)) to clarify steps and feedback loops in the EBI process specifically, and has compiled a series of tools and strategies for educators and education leaders into our *EBITE Toolkit* to strengthen capacity for effective EBI decision making.

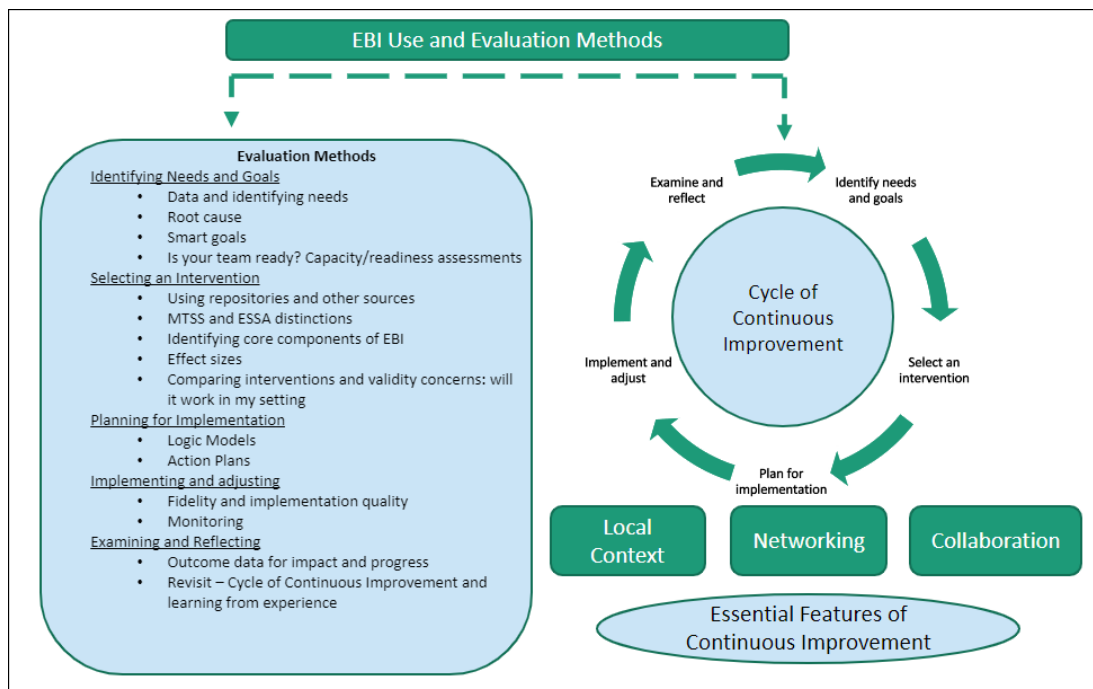
#### What does the EBI Continuous Improvement Process look like?

A cycle of continuous improvement is circular, which implies a continuous learning process. Regarding EBI use, evaluation tools and techniques are essential to this continuous process and to the investment schools are making in integrating evidence-based interventions into their instructional activities.

This focus on evaluation and continuous improvement assures that the funds invested in educational practices and interventions are likely to have the best possible results for students, families, and schools.

Below we present our EBITE continuous improvement model, links to additional resources, and a brief summary of our EBITE Roadmap for successful selection and use of EBIs, along with links to associated tools and materials in the EBITE Toolkit.

Figure 1. Cycle of Continuous Improvement in Relation to EBI Use and Evaluation Methods



## Essential Features of Continuous Improvement for EBIs

While the EBITE model for continuous improvement emphasizes a process for using evaluation tools and strategies to support use of EBIs in schools and classrooms, there are three connected and essential elements of the cycle that contribute to its success.

First, the local context in which the intervention will be implemented can make or break its implementation as well as its outcomes. Evidence-based interventions are not always universally applicable, and the context should be used to help determine what intervention among possible options may fit best. Second, networking with your peers is a great way to share and learn more about how interventions are used in other schools and contexts, and what works best in schools or districts similar to your own. Through networking, local expertise becomes essential to brokering knowledge on “what works.” Similarly, collaboration is key to leveraging ideas, overcoming challenges regarding selecting and implementing interventions, and can increase the likelihood of success. Resource limitations may be offset through collaboration; for example, education researchers at colleges and universities often are good resources for evaluation assistance or intervention expertise and implementation activities. Collaborating and sharing information on “what works” for your school or district is a great way to expand knowledge and contribute to others’ success with evidence-based interventions.

Be sure to visit the **TESTIMONIALS** section of the [Ohio Evidence-based Clearinghouse](#) (OEBIC) to learn about EBI experiences across Ohio, and find out how to share your own challenges and successes!

## Resources

### Selected guides on the Continuous Improvement Process

- [Ohio Improvement Process](#) (2023) Provides extensive information on Ohio’s organizational strategy in support of implementation of the continuous improvement framework.
- [Education Development Center](#) (2019) Resource Guide presenting an integrated model based on the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) approach to continuous improvement
- [IES Regional Education Lab Northeast and Islands Continuous Improvement Toolkit](#) (2020) Comprehensive resources and tools on continuous improvement, root cause (fishbone diagrams), PDSA approaches, and evaluation strategies.
- [Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning \(CASEL\)](#) (2020) Collection of resources on implementing socio-emotional learning interventions through a continuous improvement process.
- [WestEd](#) (2017). *Continuous Improvement in Practice* (downloadable resource guide)

### Videos

- [IES Regional Education Lab Northeast and Islands Continuous Improvement Toolkit](#) (2020) Collection of videos on aspects of the continuous improvement process
- [WestEd](#) (2023) Series of videos on *Facilitating Improvement in Teacher Practice*, including Learning Modules Trainer’s Guide.