

# A Guide to Educational Decision Making

## Using Evidence to Inform Classroom Practices

### Step 1: Formulate a Practical Question

The process starts by identifying some inadequacy in student performance, and setting a goal for improvement. The practical question must define the population of interest, the desired outcome, and the key features of the setting.

Selecting an intervention for students can be tricky. Educators must select a treatment that incorporates the best available evidence, the values of the students and their families, as well as any specific details about the context or the setting.

### Step 2: Select Treatment

### Step 3: Adapt Treatment

It's important to remember that a certain treatment that's been proven to work in certain contexts might not work in your specific case. Therefore, educators must adapt their treatment based on context in order to maximize its effectiveness. Educational interventions are not one-size-fits-all!

Implementing a treatment effectively is an ongoing process. Coaching and supervision are necessary, as well as any additional adaptations that the educator deems necessary. Consistently monitor student progress to determine whether changes should be made to the treatment.

### Step 4: Implement Treatment

### Step 5: Evaluate Outcomes

Perhaps the most important thing to remember is that this decision-making process is not over until positive outcomes have been achieved. If necessary, any of the steps outlined here can be revisited and revised.

Kerri Davis  
Research In the Community: A Service Learning Course  
University of South Florida

**Undergrads**   
AND Underdogs