

Developing SMARTIE* Indicators of Success

Familiar with SMART indicators but new to the "IE"? The SMART acronym recently got an upgrade that incorporates data technology and security as well as the importance of utilizing evaluation to identify and address inequities.

S Specific

Specific indicators don't leave us with questions! They provide sufficient details around what will be done, with whom, and by when.

M Measurable

Measurable indicators allow us to track progress toward a goal. They include a numeric component, such as a number or percent, and an identified data source.

A Achievable

Achievable indicators require balance - they aren't too easy or unattainable. They are realistically ambitious aims.

R Relevant

Relevant indicators align with the program goal(s) and activities.

T Timely

Timely indicators provide time-bound deadlines to be working toward, which are necessary to stay on track.

I It-Ready

IT-Ready indicators focus on data that are designed to be - or already are - housed in secure electronic systems.

E Equity-Informed

Equity-informed indicators provide the framework for measuring inequities, power dynamics, and/or the identification of disparities within populations and systems.

**Adapted from Montgomery County, Maryland, DHHS Data to Enhance Effective Practice Workgroup (2018). Performance Measurement for Program Monitoring and Evaluation: SMARTIE Framework for Measurement Selection (pg. 27).*

Upgrading Indicators from SMART to SMARTIE

Here's a little more information to help you incorporate the "IE" in your SMARTIE indicators.



IT Ready

Before we even get to the point of looking at data, we want to be sure we have plans in place for how we will securely access, analyze, report, and store our electronic data.

IT Ready Indicators work to...

- Eliminate or reduce the amount of paper forms used for data collection
- Reduce the number of data systems used for data collection and storage
- Strengthen data sharing agreements with partners who send & receive your data



Equity Informed

S.M.A.R.T.I.E. indicators play a key role in ensuring -- from the start -- that we have the data we need to identify and respond to inequities within our communities.

Equity-Informed Indicators include the capacity to...

- Routinely, respectfully, and ethically collect relevant socio-demographic characteristics
- Explore data within and across subgroups without grouping as "other" to honor all participants equally
- Use findings to identify & address disparities within or between populations

Example SMARTIE Indicator

Goal/Outcome: Increased math achievement

Indicator of Success: From August 2018 to June 2019, at least 80% of newly immigrated (<3 years) middle school participants will demonstrate >10% gains on MAP-M standardized math assessment, as shared electronically through a school system research request.

"... there is a disconnect in how most people think about what evaluation is for (just for accountability) and what evaluation could be (a mechanism that can help to advance social justice and equity)."

--Mariah Brothe Gantz, *The Realm of Possibility in Evaluation*
Center for Evaluation Innovation