

# Considerations for EdTech Implementation



College  
Innovation  
Network

## KEY INSIGHTS AND COMMON CHALLENGES

EdTech is an increasingly critical piece of connecting students with their learning experiences. Adopting that technology, however, poses a particular set of challenges that can stall or stunt the positive impact on student learning. During a February, 2021, convening of administrators from the College Innovation Network (CIN) member institutions, three themes emerged as core challenges to EdTech impact:



### 1. Market failures

- eroded trust and confidence in partnerships from early-stage companies
- hesitant reception and adoption of new, innovative solutions



### 2. Challenges to implementation

- limited resources
- resistance to new solutions
- faculty buy-in and usage

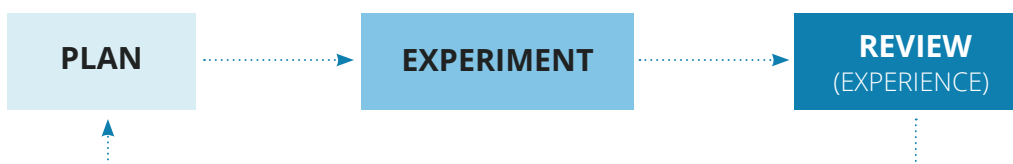


### 3. Challenges to research

- difficulty finding relevant comparison groups
- insufficient access to relevant data
- limited expertise in analyzing and reporting

## CYCLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Dr. Justin Reich, Director of the MIT Teaching Systems Labs and an expert on the role of technology in education, offered key insights into the nature of implementation cycles. He recommends thinking of implementation and evaluation as a continuous, cyclic process, rather than a linear one with a defined end state.



For administrators wanting to better support innovation adoption through a coordinated and data-informed approach, Dr. Reich recommends you remember these as you work through the cycles.

Throughout the cycle, remember to:

- Refine a vision and get to work
- Bring people together around ideas they care about
- Measure progress and adjust as needed
- Work together through ups and downs

As an administrator, throughout the process, ask yourself:

- Where can I intervene in the process?
- What are the research and development incentives for improved pedagogy?
- What structures are in place to learn from new innovations?
- How do I facilitate faculty sharing with each other?
- What is our shared vision and language for educational improvements?