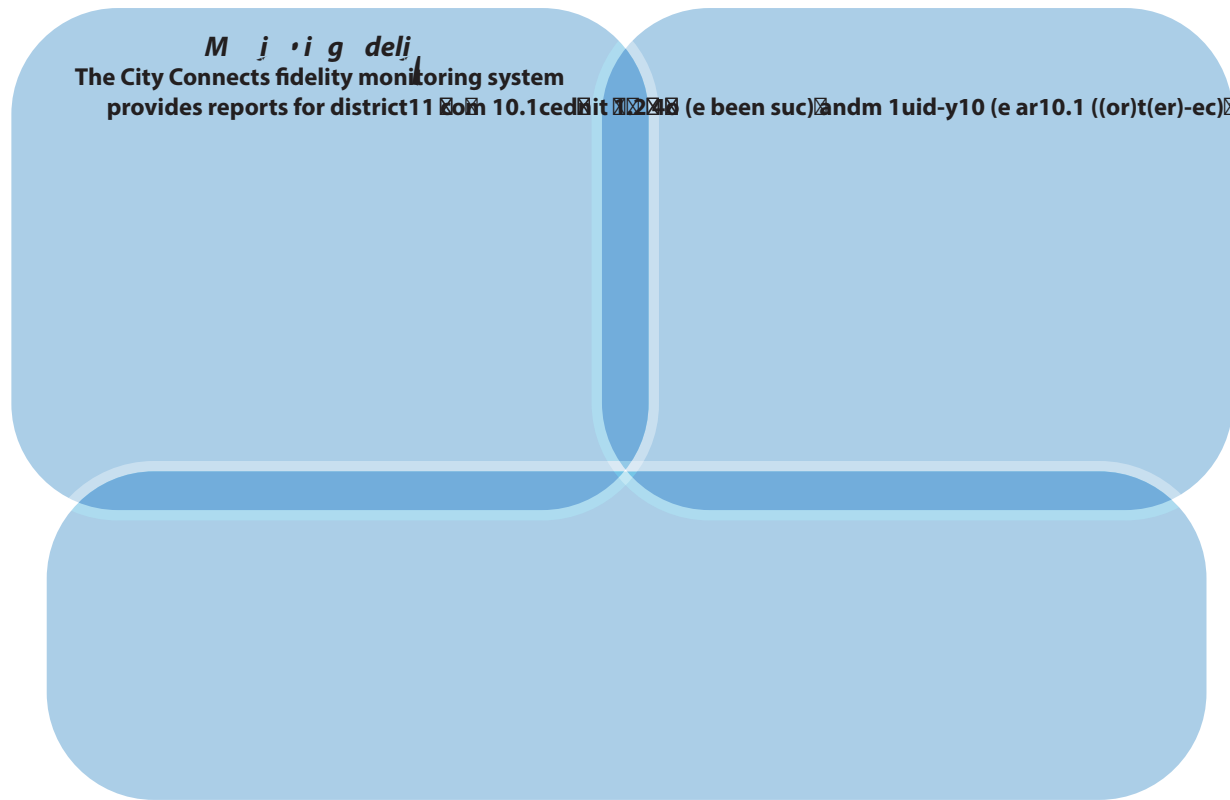


Introduction

While emphasis on evidence-based practice in education continues to grow, practitioners and policymakers want to implement interventions that are also sustainable. Researchers are arguing that to be worth investing in, an evidence base is only a beginning; an intervention must also be implemented in a way that ensures it will take root and last (Fixsen,

4. SUSTAINED SITE – MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Finally, the literature underscores the importance of continued monitoring and evaluation in a sustained site. For City Connects, the district assumes major responsibility for implementing and sustaining the City Connects intervention. Monitoring implementation and evaluating outcomes are important activities in this phase, as are creating the conditions that allow for innovations and adaptations to change.



Conclusions

The phases of work outlined above have been successful in establishing City Connects as a sustained district- and school-based approach to addressing the out-of-school factors that impact students' ability to learn and achieve. Many components of this approach—such as selecting evidence-based practices; including a carefully structured planning period; using well-documented implementation processes, recruiting procedures, and professional development; and monitoring fidelity and outcomes—can strengthen efforts to sustain a wide variety of educational interventions, and even community interventions. Sustainability is achieved through attention to these dimensions from the very beginning and through every stage of work on a promising intervention.

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