

Focus to Flourish

Five Actions to Accelerate Progress in Learning

There has been tremendous progress toward ensuring that every child has access to school —and now that most children are in school, the focus must shift to ensuring universal learning, which requires fundamental changes.

Adapt

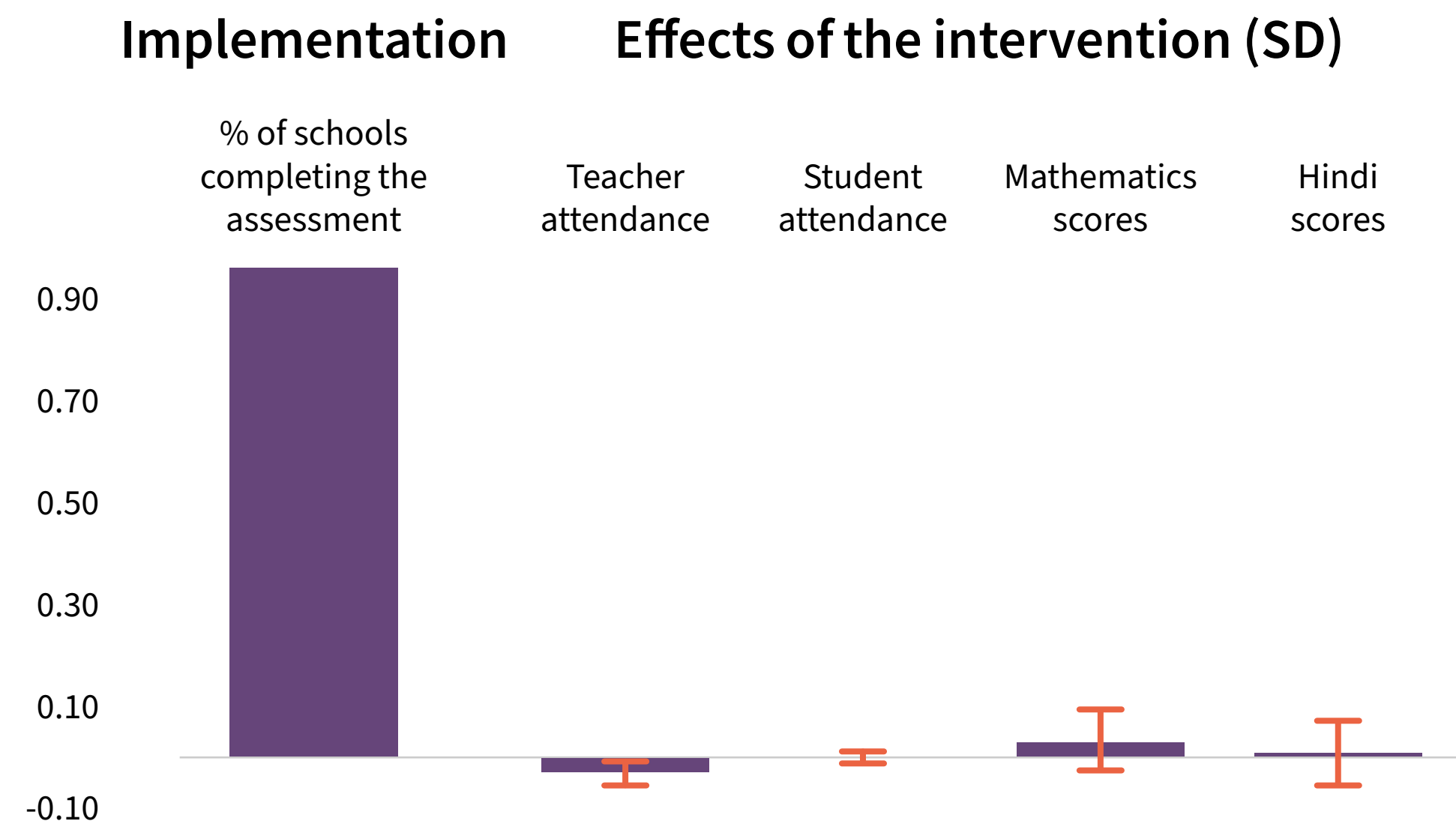
what you adopt as you implement



Align Measure
Commit Support
Adapt

When programmes are implemented without enough adaptation or iteration, even a technically well-designed programme may have no impact

A school quality assurance programme, based on ‘best practices’ and implemented according to plan in thousands of schools in Madhya Pradesh, India, had no impact on either student learning or teacher practice



... We have to make a work plan and then upload it, get it printed. **There is so much paper work that by the time some teachers figured that out they had forgotten what [the programme] itself [is about].** I do all the documentation work at home because I have no time in the school. ”

—Headteacher of a champion school, quoted in Muralidharan & Singh (2020), p. 18

Source: Data extracted from [Muralidharan & Singh, 2020](#).
For more, see [Aiyar et al., 2021](#).

Embrace adaptation and iteration as the key to success



... research and practical experience demonstrate that scaling is not a linear process but requires ongoing iteration and adaptations to fit different contexts and local needs, mechanisms to address problems and opportunities as they arise, and space for data-driven course corrections. "

Center for Universal Education,
Brookings, 2021



Source: [Building State Capability, 2018](#).
For examples of iteration and adaptation in practice, see
[Samji & Kapoor, 2022](#); [McNaught, 2022](#); and [Barjum, 2022](#).



SPDI [Smart Policy Design and Implementation] is an iterative approach, where the lessons learned at each stage are used to refine existing designs and identify the next set of objectives and challenges. "

Evidence for Policy Design,
[Harvard Kennedy School, 2022](#)



Iterate study design decisions with stakeholders. "

Research Resources,
[J-PAL, 2021](#)

Align Measure Commit Support Adapt





Commit to universal, early foundational learning
Measure learning regularly, reliably, and relevantly
Align systems around learning commitments
Support teaching
Adapt what you adopt as you implement