

# Why and how AERO developed a deliberate and structured approach for implementing evidence-based teaching practices

## Why effective implementation holds great promise for Australian schools



The education community has made significant progress in identifying effective teaching practices. However, there is a persistent gap between what research indicates is effective and what is typical practice in Australian classrooms. To narrow the gap, schools need support in implementing evidence-based teaching practices.

Without support, implementation efforts can falter. Relying on guesswork, using a single implementation strategy and not giving enough consideration to school context can all lead to unsuccessful implementation.

When evidence-based teaching practices are implemented well, they lead to better outcomes for all students. Taking a more deliberate and structured approach can help implementation teams avoid common pitfalls and effectively respond to factors that influence how well schools adopt evidence-based teaching practices.

## Developing and testing AERO's deliberate and structured approach to implementation



We aimed to develop an approach that would be:

- evidence-informed
- practitioner-focused
- accessible
- adaptable
- contextualised to Australian settings
- applicable to evidence-based teaching practices.

We drew on implementation science when developing this approach because it:

- focuses on implementation of evidence-based practices
- has a rigorous and growing evidence base
- has not yet been used extensively in relation to teaching practices, but is highly relevant to Australian schools
- extends existing implementation efforts in Australian schools
- was specifically recommended in expert advice.

We identified 6 key concepts in implementation science that we packaged into a deliberate and structured approach for school implementation teams:

- considering context
- selecting the evidence-based teaching practice(s)
- using a staged approach
- addressing enablers and barriers
- using key implementation strategies
- monitoring implementation outcomes.

## Learning with schools and systems

We're working alongside schools and systems through the Learning Partner project to pilot and evaluate our approach. In this project, AERO staff work with school leaders and regional system teams across 4 states to understand implementation in different school contexts.

This helps us to ensure a deliberate and structured approach is useful and usable in schools. For example, it has helped to translate ideas about enablers and barriers in research into guidance, tools and resources for Australian schools.

The project also enables us to draw on practitioner experiences when refining our approach to, and language about, effective implementation.

## Where to next



Supporting effective implementation of evidence-based teaching practices in Australian schools is a collective, ongoing effort.

AERO will continue to explore opportunities to make this evidence-informed approach to implementation more useful and usable for school implementation teams.

School leaders and implementation teams can find practical resources on our website.

Policymakers and regional system teams can consider ways to support school implementation at a system level.

There are also considerable opportunities for researchers to expand the research base on implementation in education in ways that have practical implications for schools.



## Learn more

Scan the QR code for a more detailed description of [how we developed our approach](#).

AERO's work is made possible by the joint funding it receives from Commonwealth, state and territory governments.