



Overview of Fidelity Monitoring

As noted in the 21st CCLC Evaluation Manual, evaluators are required to assess program fidelity as part of their evaluation of the success of a program's implementation. Broadly speaking, fidelity refers to how well a program adheres to its original design. This assessment can be encompassed by the following major program components:

- alignment of program outputs (scheduling, activity and participation levels) with the stated plan;
- alignment of program administration activities (such as development of documentation procedures, creation of a program handbook, and communications with stakeholders) with requirements in the Evaluation Manual and Addendum, and with the plan stated in the grant proposal; and
- quality of program activities (for example, providers' effectiveness in supporting student independence, or success in aligning program content with the school day), in alignment with the plan stated in the grant proposal.

Fidelity of program outputs can be assessed based on the extent to which implementation Performance Indicators have been obtained. For additional required grant components that may not be reflected in your Performance Indicators, fidelity should be assessed based on how closely these program activities align with what was described in your grant proposal or NYSED-approved program modifications.

Program fidelity is required to be assessed, at a minimum, at least once a year during the first site visit. Ideally, the assessment should be updated multiple times throughout the year so that any deficiencies can be addressed. The accompanying Program Fidelity Chart, developed by L&G Research, provides one example of how the status of fidelity of program outputs might be monitored. Evaluators should consider extending such monitoring to fidelity of program administration and implementation quality as well.