

Ten Things I Wish I Would Have Known about SPDG Evaluation
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Learn from an Evaluator Breakout Group
SPDG National Meeting, October 16, 2024

1. The project year, reporting year, school year, and depending on the state, fiscal year, will all have different start dates
2. SPDG Evaluations don't follow the traditional Goals-Objectives-Activities structure of grant program development and accountability
3. Focus on Performance Measures (1-4) with few, if any, Project Measures
4. Having the Evaluator involved early in the project planning (in the proposal development if possible) is critical
5. Relationships between the Evaluator(s) and the Project Director/Leadership Team is key
6. Projects are going deeper, not wider
7. Implementation Drivers!
8. A clumsy data dashboard is worse than no data dashboard at all. Projects need a project-level data system guru (Responsibilities clearly outlined with sufficient allocated time. That person does not need a background in K-12 education).
9. Don't forget the reliability check requirement for your fidelity measure.
10. Projects need to have at least one person driving ("eye on the prize"). The Evaluator should ride shotgun.
11. Bonus. The federal reporting system accepts a very small number of characters, however it also accepts as much narrative as necessary to illustrate key concepts as an attachment

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