



## LearnPlatform and the Blueprint:

### Integration of Universal Evidence Reports (UER) and the Blueprint to create more accessible and inclusive research

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## OVERVIEW

LearnPlatform builds ground-breaking tools to expand equitable access for all students, by increasing the capacity of educators and their organizations to select and evaluate digital learning products that best meet the needs of their students. LearnPlatform collects data from thousands of EdTech products across the country, then provides analysis and organizes data for millions of students, as well as streamlines processes such as procurement, piloting and evaluation.

Learn Platform creates Universal Evidence Reports (UER), from the results of Rapid Cycle Evaluations (RCEs) conducted. UERs provide consistent, peer-vetted, open-source forms for the reporting of evaluations of education interventions. It focuses on settings in which interventions occur, methods and samples in which evaluations occur, and findings that are consistent and shareable. LearnPlatform is building a data archive of UERs to be made available publicly for wider, open-source research and enquiry.

The BIRD- E Blueprint is a free, open-source framework that aims to modernize education research through a common, research-based language to bridge the divide between research and practice in the K-12 data ecosystem. The Blueprint aims to provide a structured, universal and consistent approach to design, collection, and reporting of research to answer the most pressing question of what works, for whom, and under what conditions. It contains a list of critical data elements that summarizes and represents key education data needs in the K-12 spectrum including early childhood.

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## APPROACH

The evaluation process entailed two distinct approaches:

1. Assess the applicability and coverage of the Blueprint by cross-mapping the modules and submodules of the Blueprint against the established evaluation framework of different pilot partners.
2. Instrument a research question with the partners using the Population, Intervention, Comparison and Outcome framework and use the Blueprint to identify and classify the elements needed for evaluation in the specific context of the research question.

The success of the pilots was measured by 3 major criteria:

1. **Coverage:** The coverage is defined as the total number of elements mapped as a percentage of the total number of elements identified to represent the education data needs in the evaluation frameworks of the pilot partners.
2. **Understandability:** The understandability is defined as the assessment of clarity in definitions and understanding of the elements by other stakeholders. The precision, organization and ambiguity was assessed using qualitative and quantitative data.
3. **Generalizability:** The generalizability is defined as the extent to which the elements, modules and sub-modules are aligned to real-world application and experiences. The generalizability was calculated as a median of the coverage for all pilots and aggregated the scores of all pilots to determine the overall generalizability of the Blueprint.

LearnPlatform has a collection of historical Rapid Cycle Evaluations (RCEs) on different products and interventions to understand its impact. The pilot design focused on utilizing the collection of RCEs and its summary variables to understand complementary overlap of these variables with Blueprint elements.

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## APPROACH CONT.

As part of the pilot design and process, LearnPlatform's UER evaluation framework was assessed and mapped against the Blueprint to assess coverage and comprehensiveness.

In the comparison of the UERs and the Blueprint, both teams focused on observing the overlaps particularly with demographics, assessment, and education technology elements.

This pilot demonstrated the use case for the education technology organizations in the sector and emphasized on how alignment with the Blueprint can improve EdTech data models to serve the practical data and research needs of both practitioners and researchers.

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## RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- LearnPlatform identified 543 RCEs to use for the pilot; of the 543 RCEs, 32 total elements were identified that were most frequently used by LearnPlatform partners for analysis.
- The pilot demonstrated a 94% coverage and 88% understability score.
  - 94% of UER variables having a match with the Blueprint
  - 88% of UER variables having the same definitions as the Blueprint elements they were matched to
- Gaps between RCEs and the Blueprint included LEA or local education agency and district size, which are not included as elements in the Blueprint, but emerge as one of the key variables in RCEs.
- The definitions of the pre-achievement metrics were improved in the Blueprint as per the recommendation of the LearnPlatform's feedback.