

MBOE Capstone Project – Return on Investment

Erica Powers

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One sentence format:

An education organization reduced the number of tasks needing rework in a workshop planning process from an average of 33 times per workshop to about 15, saving \$4,000 per workshop or \$80,000 over the course of a year.

Extended format:

For our organization, the project's returns on investment come in three forms: potential financial savings, internal awareness and learning, and the success of the school districts with which we work.

Financial Savings

For the workshop planning process, our team has minimized the amount of tasks that needed to be reworked from an average of 33 times per workshop to about 15. If the average task takes three hours, this is a savings of \$4,000 per workshop, or potentially \$80,000 over the course of the year.

Internal Awareness

The organization has made operational excellence a priority, and is one of main focuses of our 2012-2013 strategic plan. An OpEx committee has formed to increase awareness and sense of urgency among staff, and determine future improvement projects. In addition, a number of new positions are being created around quality control and operational efficiency within product development. Lean strategies are being implemented in new ways within the organization, which will likely expand with the addition of these roles.

School District Engagement and Success

After focusing on engagement of districts this year, we experienced a 29% improvement in participation at our workshops (from 30% to 59% of eligible districts represented) between November 2011 and November 2012. Using our visual management strategies, we've made personal contacts with every district on at least one occasion during a four month period, and will continue into 2013.

We encourage districts to use strategies they learn at our workshops to improve their practices and therefore impact student learning. Last year, 18 districts that attended our November workshop, which focused on responding to data, had a state rating of "below" in 2011. By fall 2012, 15 of those districts had improved to either "met" or "above" rating.