***DecisionMaker***

A decision-making framework for education decision-makers based on cost-utility analysis

SMALL PICTURE OF HOME PAGE (FLOWCHART) SOMEWHERE???

Decision-makers in schools, districts and SEAs are regularly tasked with making decisions based on incomplete information. They are often working with immovable deadlines and limited resources:

* Which of our many programs shall we continue to fund this budget cycle?
* What reading strategies should we pursue for our struggling readers?
* Which SEL curriculum should we implement?
* How much should we scale up a promising program?
* Where should we locate a new campus?
* Should we use our pd resources for more workshops or more one-on-one coaching?

Policymakers expect education decision-makers to use evidence to inform their decisions. Program staff and researchers strive to provide relevant information, but it may come too late to inform the decision or fail to address all stakeholder needs. Board members, district office staff, teachers, parents and students all have needs and concerns that only sometimes converge. Some stakeholder goals and needs are objective, such as increasing the graduation rate, and some are subjective, such as whether a program or strategy fits with the education agency’s mission and the community’s core values.

*DecisionMaker* is a free, online tool designed to facilitate decision processes that take a variety of objective and subjective factors into consideration and involve multiple stakeholders. It provides the scaffolding to help decision-makers evaluate and rank alternative solutions to their decision problem.

*DecisionMaker* has been developed by the Center for Benefit-Cost Studies of Education ([CBCSE](https://www.cbcse.org/)) at Teachers College, Columbia University in collaboration with aspiring principals, several schools, several school districts and an SEA. Funding has been provided by the William T. Grant foundation.

**At HISD we have primarily been working with Venita Holmes and Felicia Adams, with additional insights from Supt. Lathan, Glenn Reed, Lance Menster, Angela Borzon, Isabel Hovey and Lauren Price.**

On **Thursday May 16th (9-5pm) and Friday May 17th (9-2pm)** CBCSE will visit HISD to introduce *DecisionMaker* to district office personnel. Please come and learn about *DecisionMaker* and how it might be helpful in your own decision-making or research. You can stop by our conference room for around 30 mins so we can demo it for you. Or you can come for 45 – 60 mins and try it hands-on for yourself. We are interested in your feedback as we make the finishing touches to the tool.

Please use this sign-up sheet *[This would link to a google sheet or something accessible at HISD]* to let us know when you can come by. We look forward to working with you!

*The* [*CBCSE*](https://www.cbcse.org/) *Team*

*Fiona Hollands, Yilin Pan, Maya Escueta, Amritha Menon*