To assure AST program success, the AST goals need to be not only defined but also constantly tracked. Defect prevention, AST and other software testing metrics, and root causes analysis implementation are important steps to help prevent, detect, and solve process issues and SUT defects. With the help of these steps the health, quality, and progress of an AST effort can be tracked. These activities can also be used to evaluate past performance, current status, and future trends. Good metrics are objective, measurable, meaningful, and simple, and they have easily obtainable data. Traditional software testing metrics used in software quality engineering can be applied and adapted to AST programs. Some metrics specific to automated testing are

* Percent automatable
* Automation progress
* Percent of automated testing coverage
* Software automation ROI (see IAST for more details)
* Automated test effectiveness (related to ROI)

Evaluate the metrics outcome and adjust accordingly.

Track budgets, schedules, and all AST program-related activities to ensure that your plans will be implemented successfully. Take advantage of peer reviews and inspections, activities that have been proven useful in defect prevention.

As covered in IAST, in the test case requirements-gathering phase of your automation effort, evaluate whether it makes sense to automate or not. Given the set of automatable test cases, determine which ones would provide the biggest ROI. Consider that just because a test is automatable doesn’t necessary mean it should be automated. Using this strategy for determining what to automate, you are well on your way to AST success.