

APPENDIX A: TEACHER FOCUS GROUP PROTOCOL

Statement to Subjects

The Research Alliance for New York City Schools at NYU is conducting an evaluation of the Gap App project. The objectives of this research are to learn about how the Gap App project functions, the challenges in implementing it, and the opportunities it presents to educators.

As part of this study, we are conducting focus groups with teachers using the Gap App tools. Focus groups will take approximately 40 minutes and will be audio recorded. The questions will focus on your impressions of the app, any challenges you have encountered using it, the supports you've received, and your impression of whether the new tools are having a positive effect on your students' learning.

The Research Alliance will use the information you provide for research purposes only. We will keep confidential the identities of those who participate in the research and will not attribute any comments to any specific individuals, offices, or schools. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may request at any time that we stop the interview or turn off the audio recording. You may also request at any time that we not include the interview in the study.

Do you have any questions?

Implementation: *Before we start talking about the app, I want to ask you a few questions about how you got involved with the Gap App project.*

1. When did you first hear about the Gap App project?
2. How did you get involved?
 - a. *Probe:*
 - i. Did you volunteer?
 - ii. Did your principal ask you?
 - iii. Did someone from the DOE speak to you directly about the project?
 - iv. How were you selected to receive the app?
3. What interested you the most about participating?
 - a. *Follow up:* What did you think was the purpose of the Gap App project? Did you have any concerns?
4. Have you utilized education technology tools before?
 - a. If yes, which ones do you use most regularly?
 - b. For what purpose?

Gap App: *Now I want to switch gears a bit and talk about the app itself.*

1. In your own words, describe the Gap App you are using.
2. How would you describe the purpose of [specific app name]?
3. Can you give me a specific example of how you used the app?
4. [If a student facing app] In that example, what was the reaction of your students to the use of this new tool?
5. What kind of technical support do you receive for using the Gap App?

6. How does this tool compare with other education technology tools you have used in the past?
7. Have you faced any challenges in implementing the app in your classroom?
8. What recommendation or suggestion would you make to improve the Gap App pilot program?
9. What has been the most successful or promising about the Gap App program thus far?
10. Has being part of the Gap App program influenced other aspects of your teaching?

Communication/Support: *I also want to know a little about the level of collaboration with the developer, the iZone team, and other teachers.*

1. What role has the developer played so far in your use of the Gap App?
2. What role has the iZone team played so far in the Gap App program?
3. How do you collaborate with each other on the Gap App, if at all?
4. How supportive is your school in the use of these apps? *Probe for:* Principals? Other staff? Parents?
5. Are there any other sources of support I haven't asked you about?

Closing

1. In closing, is there anything else that I should have asked you about the Gap App program or the app that you are using as part of this pilot?
2. Do you have any documents about the Gap App or tools that you can share or any that you have already uploaded to iLearnNYC that we should take a look at?

[Turn off the tape recorder] *Is there anything else that you want to say with the tape recorder turned off?*

Thank you very much for your time.

APPENDIX B: DEVELOPER INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

Statement to Subjects

The Research Alliance for New York City Schools at New York University is conducting an evaluation of the Gap App project. The objectives of this research are to learn about how Gap App program functions, the challenges in implementing it, and the opportunities it presents to policymakers, educators, and education developers.

As part of this study, we are interviewing the developers working directly on the initiative. Interviews will take approximately 60 minutes and will be audio recorded. The questions will focus on your initial interest, the challenges that developers like yourself have encountered, your perceptions of working with schools and the New York City Department of Education, and your overall perceptions of the Gap App pilot program.

The Research Alliance will use the information participants provide for research purposes only. We will keep confidential the identities of those who participate in the research and will not attribute any comments to any specific individuals, offices or schools. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may request at any time that we stop the interview or turn off the audio recording. You may also request at any time that we not include the interview in the study.

Do you have any questions?

Background

1. First, tell me a little about your own background. How did you come to this work?
2. Now, I want to ask a few questions about your company....

Probes:

- When did it first start? How long have you been there?
 - Does it have an educational focus? What other products does it provide?
 - How many people work on your team? Do any members of your team have a background in education?
3. What are your responsibilities at [name of company]?
Follow up: Were there any changes in your role or responsibilities as a result of being part of the Gap App project?

Startup Process:

1. What interested you about the Gap App Challenge?
2. What were some of the key challenges you faced during the initial stages of the program?

Gap App: *Now I want to hear more about the app itself.*

1. What is [name of app] designed to do?
2. How did you envision educators using the app?
3. Aside from the school you are working with in the Gap App program, how many other schools or teachers are currently using your app?

Partnership with schools: *Now, I'm going to switch gears a bit and talk about your work with [name of school] so far.*

1. How often do you work with [name of school]? In person? Over Skype/other medium?
2. Walk me through a typical meeting with the school.
3. What feedback from teachers have you have found the most helpful?
4. Has meeting with schools altered the app in any way?
5. What challenges have you faced in working with the school?
Follow up: How have you tried to address these challenges?
6. How do you provide schools with technical support?

Partnership with DOE:

1. How often do you communicate or meet with the DOE team?
2. What topics or issues do you discuss with the DOE team?
3. What feedback or support from the DOE have you have found the most helpful?
4. What challenges have you faced in working with the DOE?
Follow up: How have you tried to address these challenges?

Closing

1. Looking toward the future, how do you think the app can be further improved?
2. How would you measure the success of the app in the Gap App program? In general?
3. In closing, is there anything else that I should have asked you about the Gap App project or that you'd like to share?
4. Do you have any documents or any other related material about this project that you can share?

[Turn off the tape recorder]

Is there anything else that you want to say with the tape recorder turned off?

Thank you very much for your time.

APPENDIX C: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION INNOVATE NYC STAFF INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

Statement to Subjects

The Research Alliance for New York City Schools at New York University is conducting an evaluation of the Gap App program. The objectives of this research are to learn about how Innovate NYC Schools functions, the challenges in managing it, and the opportunities it presents to policymakers, educators, and education innovation developers.

As part of this study, we are interviewing DOE administrators working directly on the initiative. Interviews will take approximately 60 minutes and will be audio recorded. The questions will focus on your impressions of the different components of Innovate NYC Schools and your perceptions of how they work together, the challenges that you have encountered while launching and implementing the Gap App program, and your assessment of how Innovate NYC Schools can be improved.

The Research Alliance will use the information participants provide for research purposes only. We will keep confidential the identities of those who participate in the research and will not attribute any comments to any specific individuals, offices or schools. Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may request at any time that we stop the interview or turn off the audio recording. You may also request at any time that we not include the interview in the study.

Do you have any questions?

Background

1. How long have you been working with Innovate NYC Schools?
2. Tell me about your role in Innovate NYC Schools.
3. What are your main responsibilities?
 - Have there been any changes in your role or responsibilities since you started?

Innovate NYC Schools: *I'm going to ask a few questions about Innovate NYC Schools overall.*

1. Which decisions made during the planning process of Innovate NYC Schools have had the most impact on its implementation?
2. How would you describe the key components of Innovate NYC Schools?
3. How should the success of Innovate NYC Schools be measured?
4. What successes have you or your team had so far?
5. What were some of the key challenges you faced during the recruitment stage of the Gap App project? During the pilot phase?
 - *Follow up:* How did you try to address those challenges? Do you have a plan to address these or similar challenges in the future?

Communication/Support

1. How often do you communicate or meet with developers?
Follow up: What topics or issues do you typically discuss?
2. What challenges has the DOE team faced in the implementation of the Gap App project so far?
3. [For Facilitators] How often do you communicate or meet with schools?
Follow up: What topics or issues do you typically discuss? How would you describe the relationships between the facilitators and schools so far?
4. How often do developers communicate or meet with schools?
Follow up: What topics or issues do they typically discuss? How would you describe the relationships between developers and schools so far?
5. How does the variation of developers (e.g., size and experience) play a role in working with schools? Working with the DOE?
6. How do you think communication [from facilitators or developers] with schools can be improved?
7. How do you think schools could be better supported in this work?

Perceptions/Closing:

1. How would you rate the effectiveness of Innovate NYC Schools so far?
2. If you were launching the Gap App project again next year, what would you do differently?
3. What is your team most interested in learning from our evaluation?
4. In closing, is there anything else that I should have asked you about Innovate NYC Schools or the Gap App project, or that you would like to share to help us understand the different components of Innovate NYC Schools?

[Turn off the tape recorder]

Is there anything else that you want to say with the tape recorder turned off?

Thank you very much for your time.

APPENDIX D: TEACHER QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How long have you been teaching?

- First year 2-5 years 5-10 years 10-20 years 20+ years

2. How long have you been teaching in this school?

- First year 2-5 years 5-10 years 10-20 years 20+ years

3. How often did your software developer prescribe you OR your students to use your Gap App tool?

- Daily Multiple times a week Once a week for more than an hour Once a week for less than 1 hour Less than 1 hour/week

Other: _____

4. How often do you OR your students actually use your Gap App tool?

- Daily Multiple times a week Once a week for more than an hour Once a week for less than 1 hour Less than 1 hour/week

Other: _____

5. How often do you meet in person OR communicate via phone or email with your software developer?

- Multiple times a week Once a week Every 2 weeks Once a month Less than once a month

6. How often do you meet in person OR communicate via phone or email with the DOE/your DOE facilitator?

- Multiple times a week Once a week Every 2 weeks Once a month Less than once a month

7. How often do you meet with other teachers involved in the Gap App pilot program?

- Multiple times a week Once a week Every 2 weeks Once a month Less than once a month

8. Overall, what is your opinion of this app?/How would you rate the effectiveness of this app?

- Very good Good Poor Very Poor

9. Would you consider using this tool after this year?

- Definitely Probably Probably Not Definitely Not

10. Would you recommend the tool to other teachers?

- Definitely Probably Probably Not Definitely Not

11. What is your overall impression of the Gap App pilot program?

- Very good Good Poor Very Poor

APPENDIX E: TEACHER AND STUDENT SURVEY CONSTRUCT ITEMS

Teacher Survey Constructs and Items

Construct	Item	Scale
Opinions and Attitudes Toward Technology		
Technology Allows me to...	Better reinforce and expand on content.	Disagree strongly
	Better respond to a variety of learning styles.	Disagree somewhat
	Better present complex material.	Disagree a little bit
	Better provide additional practice to struggling students.	Agree a little bit
	Better improve my students' ability to learn.	Agree somewhat
	Better collaborate with colleagues.	Agree strongly
	Better engage with parents.	
	Better manage student data, such as attendance and grades.	
	Better manage my classroom.	
	Spend less time lecturing during class.	
I believe...	Enjoy teaching more than before.	
	I have made progress learning new technologies for my classroom.	
	I share new technologies I find with my colleagues.	
	I receive adequate training and support to use new technology.	
	I can find support when I have trouble with technology.	
	I feel prepared to take on challenges related to new technologies.	
	Technology has positively changed the way that I teach.	
	Technology increases students' skills, interests and motivation.	
Technology is a teaching aid that would be hard to live without.		
Frequency of Collaboration		
How often do you collaborate with:	Teachers in your school during school hours?	Never
	Teachers in your school after-hours?	Rarely
	Administrators in your school?	Sometimes
	Teachers in a different school?	Very Often
	People outside of the DOE?	Always

Teacher Survey Constructs and Items (Continued)

Construct	Item	Scale
Frequency of Tool Use		
How often do you use the following tools in your classroom?	Projector	Not often
	Video Conference/Chat	Somewhat often
	Smart Board	Often
	Laptop	Very often
	Tablet	
	Smartphone	
	Database Management	
	Spreadsheets	
	Online Gradebooks	
	Online Assessments	
	Educational Websites	
	Subject-Specific Websites	
	Tracking Student Learning	
	Blogs/Wikis	
	Social Networking	
Twitter		
Apple TV		
Other		
Level of Comfort and Proficiency with Technology		
Please indicate your level of comfort and proficiency with each of the following.	Searching for information on search engines or electronic periodicals.	Below average
	Employing tools such as attendance or marking programs.	Average
	Figuring out how to learn new technologies by myself.	Above average
	Designing student learning activities that integrate technology.	Outstanding
	Teaching others how to use technology.	
	Creating multimedia presentations.	
	Using technology to manage student data.	
	Using terminology related to computers and technology.	
	Using technology to teach students at different levels.	
	Create specific learning plans for students.	
	Developing lesson plans using a word processor and graphics.	
	Using e-mail to communicate with colleagues.	
	Helping students learn to solve problems in an education technology environment.	

Teacher Survey Constructs and Items (Continued)

Construct	Item	Scale
Design Thinking	I feel comfortable trying something new with technology.	Disagree strongly
	I am optimistic about the use of education technology tools in my classroom.	Disagree somewhat
	I am confident in my ability to solve unexpected problems.	Disagree a little bit
	I play a direct role in shaping education technology tools.	Agree a little bit
	My feedback is valuable to the creators of new education technologies.	Agree somewhat
	I am confident in my ability to create better solutions for myself and my students.	Agree strongly
	I am confident that better things are possible and I can make them happen.	
Work Satisfaction	I feel like I am an effective teacher.	Disagree strongly
	My work gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment.	Disagree somewhat
	I have the tools and resources to do my job well.	Disagree a little bit
	I feel encouraged to come up with new and better ways of doing things.	Agree a little bit
	I usually look forward to each working day at my school.	Agree somewhat
	I wouldn't want to work in any other school.	Agree strongly
	Overall, I am satisfied with my job.	

Student Survey Constructs and Items

Construct	Item	Scale
Math Self-Concept	I am confident that I can learn anything taught in math	Not at all true
	Even if a new topic in math is hard, I am confident that I can learn it.	A little true
	I am confident that I can understand any basic math concept.	Pretty true
	I am confident that I can figure out how to do the most difficult class work in math.	Very true
Math Self-Efficacy	I have always done well on math assignments.	Not at all true
	I get good grades in math.	A little true
	Compared to others my age, I am a good math student.	Pretty true
	Math work is easy for me.	Very true
	I usually can help my classmates, when they ask me for help in problem-solving.	
	I am confident that I will do well on my math assignments.	
Math Interest	I am confident that I will do well on important math tests.	
	I enjoy learning about math	Not at all true
	I am excited to learn different math concepts.	A little true
	Math is interesting.	Pretty true
	Math is my favorite subject.	Very true
	Math is one of my favorite subjects.	
	The activities we do in math class are interesting.	
	The activities we do in math class are fun.	
	The activities we do in math class hold my attention.	
	What I learn in math is useful.	
Mathematics is useful for anyone's life.		

Student Survey Constructs and Items (Continued)

Construct	Item	Scale
Opinions about Technology		
	Using technology (e.g., computers, tablets, smart phones) in class makes class more interesting.	Not at all true
	I pay more attention to classes when we use technology.	A little true
	I participate more in class when technology is used.	Pretty true
	Using technology in class helps me learn better.	Very true
	It is easier to work with other students when using technology.	
	I use technology to be creative.	
	Technology allows me to keep track of my school assignments.	
	I enjoy using technology.	
	Using technology in class is important for me to do well.	
	Technology makes my job as a student a lot easier.	
Critical Thinking		
	I can easily express my thoughts on a problem.	Not at all true
	I usually use more than one source of information before making a decision.	A little true
	I compare ideas when thinking about a topic.	Pretty true
	I keep my mind open to different ideas when planning to make a decision.	Very true
	I am able to tell the best way of handling a problem.	
Problem Solving		
	When I need help, I find someone to talk with.	Not at all true
	I know where to go for help with a problem.	A little true
	I try to work out my problems by talking or writing about them.	Pretty true
		Very true

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The Research Alliance for
New York City Schools conducts
rigorous studies on topics that
matter to the city's public schools.
We strive to advance equity and
excellence in education by
providing nonpartisan evidence
about policies and practices that
promote students' development
and academic success.