Terminology

Goal – Aspirational statement about what you want to achieve. Should be measurable but does not need to have the means to measure it embedded in the statement.

Objective – Describes how to meet your goal using SMART criteria. Breaks down the goal statement into manageable parts. Lays out the high-level plan for how you'll know if you're making progress towards your goal.

A goal may have several objectives.

Measure - The number, percent or some standard unit used to illustrate success or impact over time.

Target - The desired level of performance you want to see that represents success.

Different ways to write SMART objectives

There are multiple approaches and ways to explain how to write SMART objectives.

Take a look at these variations.

[Who] will do [what] resulting in [measure] by [when].

By [when], [who] will do [what] resulting in [measure].

By [when], [measure - includes who and what].

[Measure – includes who and what] by [when].

Two Examples

Not So Fast Let's take this objective and make it SMART	
Non-SMART objective 1:	Non-SMART objective 2:
Teachers will be trained on the selected scientifically	90% of youth participants will participate in lessons on
based social emotional learning curriculum.	assertive communication skills.
This objective is not SMART because it is not specific,	This objective is not SMART because it is not specific or
measurable, or time-phased. It can be made SMART by	time-phased. It can be made SMART by specifically
specifically indicating who is responsible for training the	indicating who will do the activity, by when, and who
teachers, how many will be trained, who they are, and by	will participate in lessons on assertive communication
when the trainings will be conducted.	skills.
SMART objective 1:	SMART objective 2:
By year two of the project, LEA staff will have trained	By the end of the school year, district educators will
75% of classroom teachers in the school district on the	have delivered lessons on assertive communication
selected scientifically based social emotional learning	skills to 90% of youth participants in the middle school
curriculum.	social emotional learning curriculum.