Intelligent risk-taking weighs benefits and disadvantages of choices to assume calculated risks that yield impactful outcomes. Intelligent risk-taking is a behavior that can be learned and improved with practice. Taking intelligent risks requires tolerance and an expectation that education innovation includes both successful and unsuccessful endeavors.

Cultivating Intelligent Risk-Taking
Intelligent risk-taking can be cultivated and supported by applying deliberate, thoughtful consideration to both the problem and its potential solutions. Consider the following steps as a guide for cultivating intelligent risk-taking:

1. **Identify What You Hope to Achieve**—Clearly establish what makes a risk worth taking. Think through and describe the desired short-term and long-term changes you expect.
2. **Assess Lessons Learned**—Draw on personal experience to make the best decisions in the present moment. Consider how others failed and what mistakes were made to inform future directions.
3. **Develop a Plan of Action**—Create a plan of action by defining your timeline, listing resources and knowledge you might require, and considering potential unintended and/or negative outcomes or barriers that potentially stand between you and your desired outcomes.
4. **Decide Whether Risk is Worth Taking**—Consider potential benefits, disadvantages, and consequences of exercising the proposed decision or plan of action. Balance available information and intuition to decide whether to proceed.
5. **Implement Ideas into Action**—Transfer ideas into activities that advance innovative ideas. Include activities that push the status quo and may have high potential for failure.
6. **Evaluate Outcomes**—Embrace failure as an important part of the education innovation process. Allow yourself freedom to fail and acknowledge failure as a learning opportunity. Use what you learn from both successes and failures to further improve your education innovation.

Assessing Your Intelligent Risk-Taking Competency
Intelligent risk-taking can yield bold changes and unexpected outcomes. As you assess your personal development in this education innovation competency, consider the extent to which you have:

- explored new ideas, methods, or interventions through experimentation;
- asked provocative questions to explore or challenge existing paradigms;
- tested the boundaries of new possibilities; and/or
- used failed attempts to learn what did and did not work.

References