

8 Tips for Getting the Most Out of Your Open School Course Subscription

1. Host a kick-off event.

Walk staff through the benefits and steps to get started with the IHI Open School.

Useful resources:

[Introduction to IHI Open School](#) (Video)

Open School Presentation Slides (PPT)

[Complete Course Catalog](#) (PDF)

[Open School Orientation](#) (Online Course)

2. Take advantage of promotional materials.

Flyer:

Display flyers prominently to build awareness.

Handout:

Distribute written instructions to reinforce your message.

3. Align courses with institutional priorities.

Example: Hamad Medical Center

Hamad Medical Center selected five courses to serve as a roadmap for employees during a system-wide campaign. ([Learn more.](#))

4. Encourage friendly competition.

Create friendly competition among employees or departments by posting course completion rates in a public forum.

Use incentives such as registration to the [IHI National Forum](#).

5. Create monthly or quarterly targets.

Example: Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)

The Health Information and Quality Authority of Ireland keeps more than 100 participants from across the country on pace by setting an achievable goal for learners to complete two Open School courses per month. Weekly conference calls and monthly face-to-face meetings help motivate staff and reinforce their learning. ([Continue reading.](#))

6. Obtain endorsements from senior leaders.

Example: Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center

Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center in Ogdensburg, New York, partially credits the success of its “Back to School” effort — which drove more than 100 employees to participate in the Open School courses — to the CEO’s commitment to the initiative. Staff members who collectively completed more than 700 courses included new employees, seasoned clinicians, and 10 members of the senior leadership team. ([Continue reading.](#))

7. Incorporate the Open School into existing programs.

Example: Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System in Newark, Delaware, has designed a robust QI curriculum by integrating Open School modules with classroom sessions and additional reading assignments. The program, called “Health Care Quality, Cost, Systems, and Safety,” has gained national recognition and directed hundreds of learners to the Open School. ([Learn more.](#))

8. Facilitate face-to-face learning with free activities.

In addition to its online courses, the Open School offers a free [library of activities](#) that are perfect for group learning. Combine our videos, case studies, games, and other exercises with the courses to customize your training program and inspire learners in new ways.