



District Data Considerations for Decision Making

Utilizing relevant, timely school district data is crucial for demonstrating the urgency behind the implementation of instructional systems and structures. It provides concrete evidence of student need and fosters a culture of accountability. When educators and other stakeholders understand the rationale behind initiatives, it builds trust and supports collaborative efforts toward common goals.

The tool below is a starting point for reviewing the correct data that will inform the decision and ensure alignment of the instructional system to a measurable outcome, including indicators for progress monitoring.

Describe a topic or problem that the team is focused on.
What do you aspire to learn by reviewing data about the topic or problem?
Draft an initial evaluation question and refine.



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Inventory the data available to answer the question (e.g., state summative assessments, formative assessments, attendance, discipline). Document if this data is available by various student groups and for multiple years (e.g., race/ethnicity, special education, English language learners, etc.).

Review the available data and reports. Describe the data.

- Be descriptive and objective
- Report specifics (numbers, values, percentages, key metrics)

Interpret the data.

- What trends stand out?
- What information is meaningful to inform the decisions related to the instructional system?
- Is all information relevant for each stakeholder group?
- What are the implications of the data results?



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Document the implications of the data, including the opportunity for improvement through the instructional system.